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TRAVELS

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, AND HUNGARY,

TO

VIENNA,

IN 1792.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Several Tours in Hungary,

IN 1799 AND 1800.

IN A

Series of Letters to his Sister in England.

BY

WILLIAM HUNTER, ESQ.

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TRAVELS

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, &c.

LETTER XX.

Buchorest, June 16, 1792.

My dear Eliza,

We left Fokshan on the 9th, and, towards the evening, reached Tirkukoli, which is such a miserable village, that my brother and I, after searching in vain for a lodging barely decent, were forced to abandon the point, and to pass the night in an open carriage. Nothing can be more disgusting than the scenes which these hovels exhibit. They are the

receptacles of poverty and dirt. The floors are generally of clay, and the nauseous suffocating scents, which exhale from the filth with which they are covered, are quite insufferable.

Whilst we were here, an accident happened, which excited our compassion to a very high degree. About an hour after our arrival, just as night was setting in, and we were chatting over our adventures, we suddenly perceived a strong light, and, immediately running out, discovered that it proceeded from a house, at some distance, which was on fire. We felt ourselves interested on various accounts, and were determined, if possible, to reach the spot. We accordingly set out on our expedition, and, crossing over several fields and ditches, arrived in time to be witnesses of a catastrophe of consummate horrour and desolation.

The houses, in this part of Turkey, being built of wood, and thatched with rushes, are entirely composed of combustible materials; and the inhabitants not

being furnished with engines or any proper machines for the conveyance of water in cases of such emergency, the ravages of fire are generally dreadful.

When we arrived, the flames were spreading very rapidly, and the miserable tenants were effecting their escape through the door and windows, in the utmost confusion. They had only time to save themselves. All the little comforts (and God knows they were few enough) which they had, with prudent parsimony, been treasuring up for years, fell a sacrifice to the fury of this insatiable element. The women, with scarcely any clothes to cover them, for they had been alarmed from their beds, were half frantic. Some of them had their infant offspring in their arms, and were protecting them as well as they could from the chilling dampness of the external air. Thus assembled, they sat on the bare ground close to each other; and whilst they kept their eyes fixed alternately on the flames and their children, they bewailed the horrours of their fate,

and made the air resound with the most piercing shrieks. I think I never beheld a more interesting group. It was capable of awakening sensations of pity and sympathy in the hardest heart that ever beat. We can, my friend, survey, with some degree of composure, the misfortunes of those, who have reached the season of maturity, and who are endowed with strength to contend against the storms of fortune; but when women and helpless infants are placed before our eyes, surrounded with perils from which there is no protection, and invoking the clemency of God to save them from total destruction: when we see the sentiments of nature prevail, even after the dictates of reason have lost their influence: when, amidst the ruin and confusion of such a spectacle, we behold a mother, in a state of distraction, still obeying the powerful sway of instinct; and, whilst her mind is absorbed by the contemplation of all that is afflicting and tremendous, her heart is engaged in fulfilling one of its tenderest and most es-

sential offices; it is as impossible to dwell on a scene of such complicated affection, anxiety, and distress, without emotion, as it is to restore life when every pulse has ceased to vibrate. The men, however, displayed more firmness, and were actively employed in pulling down a house, which was removed a few yards from that on fire; a plan which succeeded, and probably saved the remainder of the village from destruction.

Both my brother and I, commiserating the hard lot of these unfortunate sufferers, offered them money; but either misconceiving our intentions, or mistaking us for Russians, from whom they have so lately experienced every calamity, they positively refused all pecuniary relief, and turned from us with visible signs of perturbation and dread. Under these circumstances, as we were separated from our guard, we thought it prudent to retire.

On the 10th, we dined at Rimnik, which is delightfully situated, and stands on a small river of the same name, in a rich

country, abounding with wood and fine pasturages. This river will be for ever celebrated in the history of the late war, for it was on its banks, at no great distance from the town, that one of the most dreadful and obstinate engagements took place, which occurred in the course of that bloody and disastrous contest. The unfortunate issue, for the Turks, of the battle of Fokshan I have already mentioned. The grand vizir Hassan, irritated at the total repulse which his troops had met with before that place, was determined, if possible, to retrieve his misfortunes, and restore the lustre of the Turkish arms. In this view, he collected together the whole of his forces, amounting to upwards of ninety thousand men, and resolved to risk every thing on the event of a single day. Suwarrow, who, after the battle of Fokshan, had again separated himself from the Imperialists, the moment he heard of the meditated attack, immediately rejoined them. Their united armies did not exceed twenty-five thousand men; but they were men, flushed

with recent victory, and confident of continued success. They calmly waited the impetuous onset of the Turks, and the steady fire they kept up, soon spread confusion among the enemy's ranks. After a most furious conflict, disputed on each side with equal desperation, the Russians and Imperialists were left masters of the field. The Turks, completely routed, fled in every direction, with such precipitancy, that their camp, baggage, artillery, and ammunition, with near one hundred standards, fell into the hands of the victors *.

When we recollect the undaunted valour displayed by the Turks on many former occasions, it certainly, at first view, appears incredible, that they should be overpowered, with such an enormous proportion of bodily strength in their favour. The page of history records suffi-

* This celebrated battle, which gave to Suwarrow the additional title of Rymniskoi, was fought on the 20th of September. It is generally known by the name of Martinesti, a village near which one division of the Turkish army was posted.

cient examples wherein, even with an inferior force, they fought and conquered. And perhaps the same valour, which then insured them success, still exists; but it is not exerted with the same advantage: for, whilst the other nations of Europe have been making progressive and continual improvements in tactics, the Turks, blinded by insurmountable prejudices, have wilfully despised these advancements, and have continued to rely, almost solely, on their natural resources. But experience sufficiently informs us, that Nature may, on most occasions, be assisted and forwarded by the efforts of art; and perhaps in no instance is she so dependent, as in the contingent events of war. The operations of a skilful general will, frequently, more than counterbalance the disparity of numbers. Ever on the watch, he observes every movement, and foresees every plan, of his adversary, and what the sinews of his strength cannot resist, his judgment will counteract, or his ingenuity evade.

The first onset of the Turks few troops

can withstand; but that violent effervescence of spirit is soon exhausted; the havoc of the enemy's artillery is felt; and they often retreat as suddenly, and with as much precipitance, as they engage. When this once happens, the day is lost; for conceiving then, that their defeat has been pre-ordained by fate, the phantoms of imaginary danger appal them; confusion and despair spread rapidly through the ranks; the voice of exhortation is unheeded; and no effort can induce them to rally. I have often heard it remarked, that military men should be predestinarians: a maxim whose soundness I have always discredited, and which, from its frequent failures, we are enabled experimentally to controvert. The enthusiastic ardour with which soldiers sometimes espouse the cause for which they are contending, and with which they engage in its support, will occasionally surmount every obstacle. It rushes forward like a torrent that nothing can withstand; but the issue of these foolish prepossessions about fixed

fate is totally dependent on chance, and they may lead equally to the most brilliant victory or the most disastrous defeat.

Before the war, Rimnik was a considerable town, consisting of between six and seven hundred houses, scarcely fifty of which are standing at present. It suffered, even less from the Russians than the Turks, who, previous to their departure, vented their rage on the offenseless inhabitants. Can you, my friend, imagine an injustice, a baseness, a cruelty, more atrocious than this? The bare contemplation of such unprovoked and profligate iniquity, must raise a flame of indignation and resentment in every honest breast!—Oh! how despicable does human nature appear, when we see strength triumphing over weakness, and practising barbarity and oppression, only because no risk is incurred, and no resistance can succeed! To a mind of any sentiment whatever, that ferocious depravity of heart, which propels a people to ravage and destroy, without pity or remorse, its dependent territories, is quite

inexplicable. Yet, however extraordinary, it is still a truth, that, both in Moldavia and Walachia, during the whole of the late war, the Turks were more dreaded than either the Germans or the Russians; and not without reason; for in every place in which they were quartered, they have left signal marks of their avarice and brutality.

It was our intention to have crossed the Buseo this evening, and to have slept at the town of that name, which is on the opposite side; but the heavy rains, which had fallen the two preceding days, had so swollen the river, that it was not fordable, and we were obliged to pass the night in a boyar's house which, a few months before, had been entirely dismantled by the Turks, who, as a token of their contempt, had used it as a stable. The whole village of Marachini, near which it stands, as well as its inhabitants, belongs to the estate, and when it changes masters, they are transferred with it, like other common goods and chattels. Thus you see,

in this unfortunate country, the people are degraded below the ordinary level of servitude, and the most objectionable and odious part of the feudal system is allowed to retain its primitive force.

The boyars are the nobility, or rather the land-holders, of the country. They possess a great deal of power, of which they make a very bad use; and the hope of one day obtaining the government of the province is an unceasing spur to their ambition and extortion. They are continually tampering with the Porte, and are generally engaged in cabals and intrigues against the reigning prince.

Shortly after our arrival at Marachini, not choosing to trust entirely to the reports of the villagers, in order to satisfy myself about the real state of the river, I took a walk to its banks, which were at the distance of about a mile. But I found it as they had represented. On my return, I was suddenly caught in a violent shower of rain, and was obliged to take shelter in a mill. I was in the English dress, and

had a hanger in my hand, without which, indeed, I never venture to go out alone. The miller and his men seemed to be much surprised at the sudden appearance of a stranger, thus habited, and thus armed. They however behaved with great civility; allowed me to warm myself at an excellent fire; and, when I left them, one of them respectfully attended me to the door.

Early in the morning, we began our preparations for fording the Buseo, which, although lightly thought of at first, turned out an undertaking of no small difficulty. Its banks are steep and sandy, and it branches into several streams, whose currents were so impetuous, that most of our waggons, notwithstanding they were supported, on each side, by several men, narrowly escaped being overset.

Having a letter of introduction to the governor, on our arrival, we were politely received by him, and he ordered a dinner to be immediately prepared for us. His conversation, for a long time, turned entirely on the calamities which the town had

suffered from the licentiousness of the soldiery, and he dwelt on their cruelty and insolence with the most expressive manifestations of horrour and compassion. He informed us, that a few years ago, there were in Buseo upwards of two thousand houses, and that it had been reduced to its present situation (which is that of a pitiful village) by the Turks, who, before they quitted it, wantonly set it on fire, and plundered the inhabitants.

As soon as he heard that we were Englishmen, he launched out in praise of our country and its manufactures, and lamented that none of them, particularly fire-arms (of which the Greeks as well as the Turks are passionately fond), were to be procured at Buseo. My brother, fortunately, had with him a pair of English pistols which had been manufactured for Turkey, and which, although not of superior workmanship, were calculated to please the governor of a Greek town. What he had said had so flattered our nationality, that the generous

feelings of our hearts were awakened, and we immediately begged his acceptance of them. He hesitated at first; but, strongly urging our solicitations, he at length complied. He felt the full force of the compliment; and, desirous of making some compensation, insisted on sending us forward to Buchorest in his own carriage with six horses, and hoped that, by returning to Buseo at some future period, we should afford him a better opportunity of evincing his gratitude. Notwithstanding his importunity, we persisted in declining his offer, till he yielded; and I shall consider myself unfortunate if I am ever in a situation to require the hospitality which he so liberally proffered. Not, however, that I consider myself less obliged to him, for no man could have behaved with greater urbanity and politeness.

Going hence to Aformatzi, we traversed a fertile and agreeable country. The high mountains, which are the boundaries of the Turkish and Hungarian dominions, were seen at a distance, and formed the

limits of several enchanting prospects; and, for the last seven or eight miles, the road wound through a delightful wood, where I frequently descended from our waggon to gather wild flowers, which sprang up in great abundance and variety.

My principal motive for remarking Aformatzi, is not on account of its consequence (for it is but a small village consisting of huts), but because there is near it a spacious mansion (where we slept) which was built for the reception of travellers, by prince Ipsillanti, a man highly and deservedly celebrated in this country, for strength of understanding, mildness of manners, and benevolence of heart.

This prince reigned nine successive years over Walachia, and, by the vigour and purity of his government, acquired universal love and esteem. The Turkish court, which is uniformly actuated by the vilest policy, at last became jealous of his abilities, and, dreading the consequences of his popularity and his riches, thought proper to remove him. Since then, he has lived on

his own estate, as a private gentleman, still however continuing to bestow his bounty on all, and applying the honourable fruits of his administration and his labours, in relieving the wants, and alleviating the distresses, of his fellow creatures.

What a misfortune to any country must be the loss of such a prince; but, more especially, when the government is absolute, and the will of the sovereign is its law! for then, the fate of the subject is entirely dependent on the qualities of the ruler; happy or miserable, flourishing or disastrous, as his dispositions and talents are good or bad.

If human nature were perfect; if the heart of man were always regulated by reason, benevolence, and justice; and never enslaved, corrupted, or biassed, by interest or passion; of all others, an absolute government would certainly be the most desirable and the best; for, justly, discreetly, and wisely administered, it is capable of communicating the greatest

degree, both of individual happiness, and political strength. Such a government, regulated by an able and virtuous prince, would renew the felicity of the golden age; for, desiring the honour, prosperity, and welfare, of his people, and perceiving in what they must consist, he would also, as far at least as depended on human foresight and exertion, have the power of conferring them. But, unfortunately, we are not so happily constituted, and there is an inebriating quality in unrestrained authority, which has a tendency to weaken or pervert, every vigorous determination of the mind, and every generous affection of the heart.

As we approached Buchorest, our postillions, at times, made great exertions, and drove us an excellent pace. I often wondered, how they contrived to manage our waggons so well, for some of them were drawn by eight or ten horses, which were placed three, and sometimes four, abreast; and the reins and harness, which

were chiefly composed of cord, and not very ingeniously contrived, were always more or less entangled and deranged.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXI.

Tour Rouge, June 21, 1792.

About two o'clock on the 13th, after a pleasant journey from Aformatzi, we arrived at Buchorest, which is the capital of Walachia and the residence of the prince*. It is agreeably situated on the brow of a gently rising hill; is contracted in breadth, but extended in length; and, from the many trees which are interspersed among the buildings, has a good deal the

* Formerly the princes of Walachia resided at Tergovist, which is about thirty miles to the north-east of Buchorest, and is a considerable city. In those days it was regarded as the capital of Walachia. The princes of Walachia are also styled Hospodars, and by the Poles and Russians, Waywodes, a word of Sclavonian origin, signifying a governor or general.

appearance, as you approach it, of an overgrown village. Some of the houses are of wood; but they are mostly built of brick, which is plastered and whitewashed, and, instead of boards, their floors are of brick. The sofa is the principal, and frequently the only, piece of furniture with which their rooms are provided, and which, as with the Turks, is applied to the double purpose of a seat by day, and a bed at night. The bazar is spacious, and well furnished with merchandize, and the streets are regular and wide. They are, however, in one respect very remarkable, being all laid with thick planks, that traverse them from one side to the other, forming a kind of perpetual wooden bridge, which is expensive, disagreeable, and inconvenient, but has been adopted on account of the nature of the soil, which will not bind, or admit of a firm foundation. Many of these planks have a great elasticity, so that, when you are in a carriage, you are sometimes tossed about in the strangest manner imaginable, and the clouds of dust, which

fly from them on a windy day, are a dreadful annoyance.

When I inform you that the number of large churches alone, amounts to three hundred and sixty*, you will naturally infer that almost all the inhabitants are priests. A great proportion of them, I believe, is; but although they wear the outward garb of religion, they are, by all accounts, far from distinguishing themselves, either by their devotion or morality, from the common herd of mankind. This indeed is very generally the case, when the clerical profession is overstocked with ministers; for nothing contributes, with greater certainty, to corrupt the manners of mankind, than the pursuits and indulgencies of inactive ease. These churches, which are built in the form of a Greek cross, are, in general, heavy structures, and the walls being covered, both within and without, with glaring uncouth paintings,

* I did not count them myself; but several people assured me that this number was not exaggerated.

representing the Greek saints and different parts of ecclesiastical history, they have a gaudy and inelegant appearance. How would Apelles, or Zeuxis, or Protogenes, be amazed, could they revisit the earth, and behold their descendants paying to such burlesque and offensive figures, the tribute which is only due to the happiest efforts of genius, and the most masterly execution of art!

All the rich boyars reside here in the winter, and many of them live in great profusion and splendour. As a proof of the haughtiness of their notions, it is considered as ungenteel, and quite inconsistent with their dignity, to be seen in the city on foot, so that every person, who can afford the expence, keeps his carriage. The number and variety of vehicles, which are constructed for the indulgence of this luxury, are quite incredible, and many of them are very elegant and costly. They however build scarce any of them at Buchorest, but purchase them in Hungary or at Vienna.

On the 15th we took a ride to see the environs of the city, and in our way stopped at a kiosk, belonging to the principality, a place only worth noticing on account of its situation, which is extremely pleasant, and commands an extensive view over a fine champaign country.

From this kiosk we drove to a public walk, where we found a number of people of both sexes collected, enjoying the coolness of the evening air. We immediately alighted from our carriage, and joined them; but I was not much gratified with the animate objects of the landscape, for it seemed as if all the hideous women of Walachia were assembled on this ill-fated spot. An ugly face, a misshapen person, and unpolished manners, were united in each; and they really much more resembled the grotesque and haggard witches in Macbeth, than the lovely and amiable part of the creation. We immediately attracted their notice, and they gathered round us that they might examine us more minutely. Had we been thus encircled by

the charms of grace and youth and beauty, how opposite would have been our sensations! We should then, in return, have gazed at them with admiration and delight. But these unfortunate nymphs were not calculated to inspire any such emotions, and we were glad to avail ourselves of an early opportunity of returning to our carriage, and hastening home.

Russia and Germany are, at present, the only two European countries that keep up any regular intercourse with Walachia, and each is represented by a consul established here. Buchorest, indeed, being so far removed from any navigable river, and the conveyances by land being insecure, and uncertain in point of time, there is neither opportunity nor encouragement for the occupations of extensive commerce. On the 16th we dined at the Russian consul's, who feasted us so sumptuously, that I could scarcely help imagining I was either at Paris or London. We spent a most agreeable day, for it was not only the dinner and the wines which were excellent, but the

the conversation also. After a journey through an uncivilized country, we feel a great satisfaction in the society of polite, informed, and accomplished persons. Their conversation and manners recall to the mind a thousand pleasing images, and, as it were, renew our acquaintance with those habits and pursuits in which we were bred.

Mons. Codrika, the prince's first secretary, a gentleman of information and polished manners, who had, from our first arrival, shewn us every civility and attention, being very desirous that we should see the court before we left Buchorest, we were glad to avail ourselves of so good an opportunity, and, according to appointment, accompanied him there in the morning on the 17th.

As we had not been formally introduced, it was the *etiquette*, on our entrance, to notice nobody. The prince, who is a venerable looking man, between sixty and seventy, was in a rich Grecian dress, and seated on a sofa, with his two

sons on his right hand; whilst the bishops and nobles were ranged, according to their precedence, on his left. A great deal of ceremony was observed, but it was not a day of much business. Some dispatches were read, and a few petitions presented, whilst the prince was drinking his coffee, and smoking his pipe, which was of cherry wood, above six feet long, with an elegant bowl of china, and tipped with amber. Every body paid him the most obsequious deference, and, whenever he opened his lips, a profound silence reigned throughout the hall. We remained there about a quarter of an hour, and, before we retired, he ordered his secretary to beg the favour of our company to drink coffee with him in private, after the levee. So courteous an invitation was not to be rejected. We accordingly waited on him at the appointed time, and were received with all the politeness imaginable. We had not been seated long, when several attendants entered, and, after offering us pipes, presented

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We continued with him about an hour, and he was pleased to express his regret that we intended making so short a stay at Buchorest. As a farther proof of his kindness and attention, a few minutes after we withdrew, he sent his secretary to us with two general letters; one to the postmasters, ordering them to furnish us, throughout his dominions, with six horses, at his own expence; and the other, addressed to the governors of the cities we might have occasion to pass through, recommending us to their particular notice, and desiring them to give us every assistance in their power.

The princes of Walachia are appointed by the Porte, and receive their investiture by a standard and vest which are presented by the sultan. But it requires an immense sum of money to obtain this mark of distinction. In addition to this first expence, the grand seignor claims an annual tribute, which, with the various contingencies of bribery, to which it is necessary to attend, at a court where corruption is the source and soul of power,

swallows up a great part of the revenue of the principality. Within their territories they are absolute, and can levy troops, impose taxes, and enact laws at pleasure. When, however, the sultan is engaged in hostilities with any foreign power, they are, if required, obliged to raise men, and to join the Ottoman forces, like the vassals of the feudal times, who were bound to follow and defend their lord paramount.

They, in general, keep a splendid court; but as the palace (which was a spacious and magnificent structure) was burnt, during the war, the present prince is obliged to take up his residence in a monastery, and to live on a less expensive scale till it can be rebuilt.

The court of the princess is quite distinct from that of the prince, and at her levees no gentlemen are admitted, except on some particular days, which seldom occur.

The revenue of the principality amounts, annually, to about five million

piastres, above one half of which is claimed by the Porte: the remainder is allotted to the prince, to defray the expences of his government, and to enable him to maintain a splendour suitable to the importance of his office and the dignity of his rank.

The principal productions of Walachia are wax, wool, grain, and wine, with which a considerable trade is carried on to Constantinople, and different parts of Hungary and Russia. The wheat is black, from which the country has acquired the Turkish name of Carabogdana, which signifies the *Land of Black Wheat*. In some of the mountains there are extensive gold mines, which, if skilfully worked, might be of considerable value; and pieces of gold, of a very pure quality, are frequently found in the sand, on the banks of the large rivers. The climate is good, and the soil remarkably luxuriant; but it is badly cultivated, and a great proportion of it is totally neglected. This, however, is not to be wondered at, and must ever be the case, where the subject is unprotected by

the regular and certain operation of fixed laws, and entirely dependent on the will of the ruler: for what man can be expected to exert his ingenuity, or to distinguish himself for his industry, when he is uncertain by whom the fruits of his labours will be reaped?

But what, in this country, more particularly extinguishes every spark of emulation, and creates diffidence and alarm, is its frequent change of masters. In general, the princes are only appointed to the government for three years, and though they are sometimes continued in it beyond that period, they are more commonly dismissed before its expiration. A candidate, who has plenty of money, will part with it freely, and promise to the Porte a larger tribute than is paid by the reigning prince, has almost always sufficient weight and interest to occasion his downfall. The same principle which has raised them to their rank is generally allowed to operate as long as they preserve it. Thus, whilst in power, their grand object

is to enrich themselves as much as possible, that they may not only recover what has been disbursed for their station (which is always purchased), but also, that they may amass a sufficiency of additional wealth, to be able, by bribery, to ward off the blow which frequently succeeds their deposition, and which is nothing more or less than the loss of their heads. Such is the award that commonly awaits those who rise to posts of eminence in Turkey! Yet, notwithstanding the perils with which this high office is surrounded, it is sought after with the keenest avidity: a proof how readily we are enticed on to ruin by the insignificance of ideal advantages, and how easily we are blinded in our conjectures of more distant events, by the animating, yet deceitful, prospect of immediate or approaching enjoyment!

But if the appointment were for life, these views would cease, and these fears would vanish. It would then be the interest of the prince to promote the happiness, and advance the political conse-

quence, of his people, and, by encouraging agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, to insure and perpetuate a regular and increasing revenue.

The present prince, however, is much beloved, and has the character of being a worthy, nay even a patriotic, man. Though not possessed of the talents, in point of goodness and benevolence of heart, he resembles his predecessor Ipsillanti, and, in consequence of his popularity, is so apprehensive of the machinations and intrigues of the Turkish court, that he judges it necessary, for his safety, to open all the letters, which are sent from Buchorest to Constantinople.

A number of Hungarians, Saxons, Armenians, and Jews, is established in different parts of Walachia, and, possessing much more enterprise and perseverance than the natives, what commerce the country, in its present impoverished and exhausted state, admits of, is chiefly carried on by them. The Walachians, however, are proud of their origin, which

they trace from the ancient Romans. It is a pity that this pride should not animate them to achieve something worthy of such a noble ancestry.

It was our intention to have left Buchorest on the day following our arrival, but we had great difficulty in procuring a carriage; for, notwithstanding the number and variety which were continually rattling about the streets, there was but one in the town on sale, for which, taking advantage of our situation, we were obliged to pay a very extravagant price. In all countries self-interest, I observe, is sufficiently understood, to enable a dealer in any article to discover every opportunity which arises of exacting from a stranger an exorbitant profit. Conceiving that he shall deal with him but once, he is little careful what opinion may be formed of his integrity, and easily allows his scruples of conscience to be overruled by the allurements of interest. The prince had, indeed, politely sent us an araba with the horses, but it was in such a crazy con-

dition that we were fearful of venturing to undertake in it so long a journey; neither did we wish, after the experience we had had in Bulgaria, to make a second trial of the comforts of such a conveyance. Having, therefore, purchased a carriage, and provided ourselves with a servant, who understands the Walachian and Hungarian languages, on the 18th we took our leave of Vanderschroef and his family, who purpose settling at Buchorest.

Till we reached Petesti, we only passed through miserable villages, where we could procure no other provisions than eggs, bad bread, and sour wine, and even these articles were carefully concealed, till the payment was secured. The road, without being much indebted to art, was tolerably good, and the postillions drove us remarkably well. The country is undulated, and, in some parts, mountainous; but it is very fertile, and abounds in wood and rich pasturages.

At Petesti, which is a small town, pleasantly situated on the western side of

the river Argis, we paid a visit to the governor, who, according to the fashion of the country, presented us with coffee and sweetmeats; and, when we took our leave, his servant followed us to the carriage with a cheese and two loaves of bread, which we accepted without any ceremony. Notwithstanding this munificent present, we purchased, in addition, a few eatables at a shop we were fortunate enough to discover; a precaution which, when opportunity permitted, we had for some time past punctually adhered to, and which the consideration of what we had formerly endured, seemed strongly to recommend.

The dust, which the horses, as we went along, kicked up in clouds, had so soiled our clothes, that, when we presented ourselves to the governor, we must have had more the appearance of pedlars than of gentlemen, and he eyed us so narrowly, that I have often thought since, he had some suspicion we were impostors. The propriety, however, of changing our dress did not occur till it was too late; but,

determined not to experience a second time, at least that day, the embarrassment to which it had subjected us, whilst the horses were putting to, at the next stage, we scampered into a neighbouring wood, where, screened from public view by the thickness of the trees, we adonized ourselves from top to toe. It was, indeed, to such places as this that we had been generally obliged to repair, when we wished to change our clothes, for we could seldom procure above one apartment, which we of course gave up to the ladies.

Leaving Petesti, the road, for several miles, is rough and mountainous, and is afterwards continued through a beautiful wood, abounding in a variety of large well-grown trees, graced with a luxuriant foliage, and presenting an interesting assemblage of lively and picturesque views.

When it became dark, we observed, as we went along, several caverns, at no great distance from the road, dug out of a rock, in each of which a number of people was

assembled, and making merry round a blazing fire. It was a scene that struck, and amused us very much. The grotesque appearance of their figures and dress, added to their movements, and the vivid gleam which the light reflected on their countenances; the solemn silence which prevailed, except now and then when it was interrupted by a clamorous voice, or a violent burst of laughter; the thick shade of the trees, and the sequestered retirement of the spot; brought to mind, more than once, Le Sage's description, in Gil Blas, of the den of thieves.

On the 19th we arrived on the banks of the river Alt, but too late in the evening to cross, and were obliged to remain in our carriage all night, at a small village on the eastern side. We passed over it the next morning at day-break, in a ferry-boat, and then drove on till we came to Rimnic*, which is a large and handsome

* The name of this town and of Rimnik in Moldavia, which I have had occasion to mention in a former part of this work, are very much confounded;

town, with spacious streets and numerous churches, whose tinned domes, brightened by the rays of a rising sun, exhibited a splendid appearance. As, however, we only stopped there whilst our horses were changing, you cannot expect that I should enter into its history. Had it not been so early in the morning, we should certainly have paid our respects to the governor, who, being a man of much greater consequence, would, in all probability, have treated us much more sumptuously, than the last.

About four o'clock in the afternoon, we reached Kineni, where we presented a letter, from the prince of Walachia's secretary, to the vataf*, who received us with great respect, and, whilst we were waiting for our horses, regaled us with bread, eggs, and wine.

and, in some of the best maps to which I have been able to refer, they are both called indifferently Rimnik and Ribnik.

* A vataf is an officer belonging to the customs.

We had made many inquiries on the way, whether or no we should have any quarantine to perform, on entering the emperor's dominions, and had always been answered in the negative. You may, therefore, conceive our mortification and surprise, when, on our arrival at the lazaretto of Tour Rouge, a short stage from Kineni, we were stopped, and told that we could not proceed any farther, before the expiration of ten days. On explanation, we found it was not our residence in Walachia, but our visit to Constantinople, which subjected us to this penalty, nor could any one inform us what stay in Walachia would have entitled us to pass without detention. People who resided even in the same house with us at Buchorest, so long as they had not entered the metropolis of the empire, would have been entitled to pass; a sufficient proof of the absurdity of the regulation; since it is evident that had we been infected, we must have communicated the disease to others. We should, I believe, have contrived to escape, had

it not been for the stupidity of our servant, who, the instant the particulars of our route were inquired into, blundered upon Constantinople. Till then, our fate was in suspense; but the moment the name of that terrific city twanged in the ears of the officer that examined us, (who was a stiff German, puffed up with self-importance), he turned up his nose, and said, he need ask no more questions, for we could not possibly be suffered to go any farther. We, of course, were obliged to submit.

We had found the road from Rimnic to Keneni very rough and mountainous; but its extreme ruggedness and steep descent, as we advanced, rendered it absolutely dangerous, and frequently warned us to alight from our carriage. We were, however, amply repaid for this inconvenience by the beauty and grandeur of the scenery which surrounded us. The soft, the wild, the magnificent, was contained within the circle which the eye encompassed. On one side hill arose on hill, in confused succession, till their summits were lost in the clouds; on another, the sight, as if to

recover itself from the fatigue of contemplating so much majesty, reposed on sloping meadows of the freshest verdure. As we proceeded, Nature revealed herself in all her exuberance and eccentricity. Towering mountains, clothed with impenetrable woods; tremendous precipices rising perpendicularly from their base; and barren crags of endless and fantastic shape; by turns, engaged the attention, and feasted the mind with alternate wonder and delight. To complete the beauty of the landscape, the Alt, several hundred yards below, rolled its winding waters through a narrow valley, sometimes with an unruffled surface gliding gently in its bed, sometimes precipitating itself with fury from rock to rock, exhibiting one expanded sheet of foam, and making the country re-echo with its murmurs. This romantic and fascinating scenery had not escaped the notice of the monks; and we passed three monasteries which are delightfully situated on its banks, but which have remained tenantless since the war.

We had now accomplished the most perilous and tedious part of our journey, with much inconvenience and delay, but unattended with any material accident or misfortune. We had frequently, particularly before our arrival at Buchorest, heard of bands of robbers, who infested and desolated particular districts. If there were any truth in these reports, we were certainly fortunate, for none of them ever molested us. One morning, indeed, after we left Fokshan, the ladies were rather alarmed by the sudden appearance of some horsemen, who, they insisted, must be free-booters. But these apprehensions soon ceased; for they turned out to be poor inoffensive fellows, who were travelling like ourselves, and had perhaps been harbouring the same suspicions against us, which, as we were by far the most numerous party, might much more naturally arise. The poor wretches who drove us were the humblest creatures on earth, and had been so accustomed to nothing but stripes, that their expressions of gratitude,

for what we gave them, were fulsome in the extreme. How slavery debases the mind, and destroys all self-esteem! I am certainly no enemy to subordination. I am even convinced of the necessity of maintaining, in their rights, the different gradations of society; because I observe that, in every thing, order is essential to preservation. But in every class a man is of importance, and ought to be able to render himself respectable; and I commiserate the people that is compelled to submit to those restraints and degradations which are completely destructive of what ought to be the object of all laws, general happiness.

In a few words I can give you a description of the place of our confinement. It consists of about a dozen white-washed houses, standing in a bottom, and quite encompassed with high mountains, which are thickly clothed with trees. The river Alt winds through a valley at the back of the lazaretto, and, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile on

each side, there is a gate at which a few ragged sentinels are stationed, and which forms the boundaries of the space allowed to those who are under quarantine. We also have the privilege of wandering on the mountains, so that, compared with other places of the same nature, the confinement is not severely strict; but it is still confinement, and that is sufficient to create disgust.

Were I at liberty, I should perhaps be desirous of spending a few weeks here, for I suppose it is one of the wildest spots that is any where to be seen; but compulsion and imprisonment will obscure the beauties of the most delightful and interesting scenes. We are, my friend, always longing after what is beyond our reach, and are always dissatisfied with what we actually possess: such is the construction and history of the human mind!

If you could have a peep into our room, I think you would be a good deal diverted with our contrivances. It is both bed-room and sitting-room (for we are only

allowed one), and is totally unprovided with furniture, having neither bed, table, nor chair. When I first entered, I asked, where we were to sleep? and the fellow surlily answered, *There*, pointing to some planks, which are raised a few feet from the floor, and extended along one side of the floor.

Depending on procuring every kind of comfortable accommodation, when we once got into the dominions of a Christian emperor, in order to diminish the bulk of our baggage, we had left our beds at Buchorest. Others were not, however, to be procured here; and, to provide as good a substitute as we could (there being no straw in the village), we ordered our servant to purchase a large bundle of hay, which is laid on the planks, and tossed out, at night, in the shape of two beds with bolsters. We then spread our sheets, (which we have fortunately reserved) and, instead of blankets and quilts, we cover ourselves with wearing apparel. But, in spite of all our care, our beds are very

uncomfortable, for the hay works through the linen, and, whenever we move, scratches us like pins, so that it is impossible to get any sound sleep. A few hours after our arrival, a fellow obliged us to open all our trunks, and to have the contents (in order to purify them from the plague) suspended on pegs round the room. They are hanging there still, and give it the exact appearance of a pawn-broker's shop. When we dine, we make use of the planks, on which we sleep, as a table, and our trunks, turned on their sides, are our chairs. But what is ten times worse than all this, we can scarcely get any thing to eat, and what little we do get, is so bad, that nothing but absolute necessity could induce us to touch it. I hope, when I next write you, I shall be able to give you a better account of our comforts.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXII.

Lazaretto of Tour Rouge,
June 29, 1792.

THANK God! our quarantine terminates this day, and to-morrow we shall be at liberty to prosecute our journey to Vienna.

When I tell you that those misfortunes, of which I so bitterly complained in my last, have, with but little intermission or alleviation, been continued till now, you may easily conceive that we have not spent our time very agreeably. Had it not been for the pleasant society of monsieur de Marais, a French officer of our acquaintance, who arrived here but two days after we, I believe that the few sparks of gaiety, which still animated us, would have been completely extinguished, and we

should have sunk under the burden of our numerous vexations. As it was, we contrived to laugh now and then, and the recollection of our sufferings was frequently driven away by the pleasures of cheerful conversation.

Our provisions, for the first four days, were not only infamously bad, but so scanty, that we really were almost starved; and, determined, if possible, to procure some relief, I was induced to forward a letter of introduction to monsieur Maltus, a gentleman at the head of the customs at the town of Tour Rouge, which is distant but a few miles. He politely waited on us the following day, and I never in my life remember meeting with a person who, from a bare letter of recommendation, before he was at all acquainted with me, treated me with such cordial kindness and civility. He made us an entire offer of his services, and desired, that, whenever we had occasion for any thing which he could procure, we would, without ceremony, acquaint him with our

necessities. We considered these, at the moment, as mere words of compliment. They, however, turned out otherwise; for, the next morning, he sent his servant with a basket of provisions from his farm, accompanied with a very polite message, begging that we would do him the honour of calling on him, as we passed through Tour Rouge in our way to Hermanstadt. From this time our fortune began to mend, and the succeeding day a peasant, who had been hunting on the mountains, brought us a roe-buck, which we purchased of him for eighteen pence. It was, notwithstanding, considered as a great prize; and the governor, hearing of our good luck, exerted his interest for a share of it. As we were desirous of being on good terms with him, you may be sure we did not refuse his request. He, however, had not the politeness to invite us to partake of it. His was, no doubt, well cooked; but what we reserved for ourselves, was made so dry and hard in the dressing, that we could scarcely eat it. By the time this stock

was expended, we had an opportunity of buying a lamb for the moderate sum of sixpence. Though I must, to diminish your surprise, acquaint you that it was not much larger than a hare, and that the man stipulated to have the skin, which, being black, was by far the most valuable part of the animal, as it is the favourite covering of the kalpak, a kind of bonnet much worn in Turkey by the Armenians. When we were in want of wine, we were obliged to send to a place three or four miles off; but it was execrable stuff, and kept us very sober.

The people of the village seem well enough disposed to serve us, and a poor fellow, who has a boat on the river, has been out a fishing for an hour or two every day since we have been here, in the hopes of getting us a dish of fish; but the water is as barren as the land, and, in spite of his perseverance, he has been very unsuccessful. Must it not be a shocking country for an Englishman, where neither of these elements furnishes food?

We are now in the emperor of Germany's dominions. I will not, however, totally abandon the subject of Turkey, without giving you some account of the customs and manners of its inhabitants. Not that I purpose entering into any elaborate or minute detail; but, merely, by delineating the leading and prominent features, I shall endeavour to convey to your mind a just notion of their general character.

This vast empire is inhabited by four distinct races of people, viz. the Turks, the Greeks, the Jews, and the Armenians.

The Jews are much more numerous than the Armenians; but, as they betray exactly the same characteristics which distinguish them in other parts of the globe, and as there is nothing, but what I have already mentioned, particularly remarkable or interesting in the habits of the Armenians, I shall confine my observations to the Turks and Greeks.

With the origin of the Turks you are already well acquainted; and it would be

superfluous, whilst I am addressing myself to you, to enumerate the various causes which combined to unite and direct their exertions, and to render them not only a respectable but a formidable nation. But that vigour and persevering activity which, at the beginning of their history, shone forth so conspicuously, and which, at one time, were tearing up every obstruction that checked the progress of their arms, and almost threatened the dissolution of every other existing state, have, long since, totally disappeared. At present, they are an enervated, a superstitious, an ignorant, and a sluggish, people; the bigotted slaves of a tyrannic government; the declared enemy of the arts and sciences; and the firm opposer of every useful institution. Too stupid to comprehend, or too proud to learn, or too infatuated to be convinced, they blindly follow the pursuits of luxury in the very bosom of despotism; and although they are surrounded, on almost every side, by civilized and enlightened nations, their attachment, to

opinions which are founded in folly, and upheld by prejudice, does not diminish.

When we consider what a long period of time has elapsed, since the light of reason first began to dispel the thick cloud of ignorance which once darkened the face of Europe, and, by degrees, to rouse, to inform, to refine, and to illumine, the understanding of man, we are astonished that this people should have remained stationary, and, in spite of the influence of example, should still continue to be guided by an unshaken adherence to their former notions and errours.

Whilst we are making the remark, we feel inclined to investigate the cause whence such a blind, deep-rooted, veneration originates. Is it occasioned by the natural disposition of the people? Surely not.—Does it then arise from the vices of a government, which is peculiarly framed to deaden the faculties of the mind, and to eradicate the feelings of the heart? Much may, no doubt, be attributed to its influence; yet that wonder-

ful degree of mental apathy and bodily indolence, which they have gradually allowed to overwhelm them, appears to me to be principally derived from a still more potent source. It is the ridiculous doctrines of their religion (engrafted in a moment of enthusiasm, and cultivated and strengthened by the imposing arts of succeeding ages) which have thus fatally operated, and which, though first used as an instrument to excite, have been since employed as an engine to crush, the restless propensity of man.

The firm belief of predestination, which is a principal article of faith, and one of the indispensable duties, of a mussulman, is, perhaps, the most powerful political machine, that stupidity ever submitted to, or craft ever devised. It deprives man of all the energy and sublimity of his character. His free-agency is gone, and he moves, with careless and uniform unconcern, in whatever circle he chances to find himself. Whether obedience is to be insured, or insurrection pro-

moted, it is equally calculated to impose on the credulity of the multitude; and to the prevalence of this absurd tenet, many of the revolutions, which have happened at Constantinople, may be traced.

A Turk regards every occurrence of his life with the same torpid indifference; and, being fully persuaded, that no exertion or prudence can prolong his happiness, or avert his destruction, it frequently happens, that neither the prospect of security, nor the approach of danger, can animate his perceptions, or awaken him from his lethargy. Grave and uncommunicative, rather from habit than from nature, as if the pleasures of society were totally estranged from his breast, he trifles away his life in the listlessness of negligent inactivity; and, as if entirely separated from the concerns of the world, and uninterested in the welfare of his species, he scarcely fulfils one duty which can render him serviceable to his fellow-creatures. If he read the koran a specified number

of times; pray at stated hours, either at home or at mosch, five times a day; and conform to a few of the positive ordinances of his prophet; he imagines that he has discharged every obligation which is either requisite or important, and that, as a recompense for such scrupulous obedience, he has secured, in a future state, the endless and voluptuous enjoyments of his ideal paradise.

Superstition, which is the mother of the strangest absurdities and contradictions, notwithstanding the fatalism of the Turks, disposes them in one instance to deviate from their general conduct, and to celebrate eclipses with extraordinary solemnity. If one happen to occur during the night, they are roused from their slumbers by the cries of the muezzins; and, on hearing the summons, they instantly rise, repair to their moschs, and, by vows and supplications, endeavour to avert the menaces of such an alarming omen. This is certainly a direct departure from their leading tenets; but who can pretend to account

for the wild incongruities of the human mind, when under the agency of this overwhelming and eccentric passion? How easily might these stupid fears be removed by a little knowledge in astronomy, or the slightest observations of the phenomena of nature. But superstition and ignorance must ever go hand in hand.

What superstition, firmly engrafted on the human intellect, can accomplish, the history of the world sufficiently informs us. Look to its effects as they have prevailed through the different regions of the globe, always undermining the happiness of mankind through the medium of impracticable duties, and imaginary fears. Even among nations where civilization has made no inconsiderable progress; where science and taste have been successfully cultivated; where the real obligations of life have been clearly defined, and generally acknowleged; it has still been successful in mischief. Above all, look to the persecuting zeal and fatal absurdities of the Romish church. What do they exhibit but an unrelenting and

sanguinary spirit, but an endless chain of contradictory errours and vices? It was left to modern France to demonstrate, that the absence of all religion is attended with nearly the same consequences. There is, however, this distinction to be discovered between superstition and atheism, that the one is the perversion of judgment, acting on the feebleness and derangement of the mental powers; whereas the other, with coolness and caution, combats with the subtlety of reason, and its spirit is as daring as its practice is profligate. The one may be strenuous in mischief without the intention or the consciousness of promoting it; but the other, willingly and openly, seizes the gauntlet of defiance, and, by violating every duty that is binding on men, plants a deadly dagger in the vitals of the economy of nature, and destroys the happiness and hopes both of a present and a future state.

The religion of the Turks is supported at an immense expence, and it is calculated that the church is in possession of nearly

one third of the domains of the empire. Its ministers, of whom the mufti is the head, are innumerable; and the revenues of some of the royal moschs amount to the almost incredible sum of 60,000*l.* sterling. These are appropriated to the discharge of the wages of the different officers attached to their service; the maintenance of the hospitals in the neighbourhood; the instruction of students in the law of Mahomet; and the relief of the poor. The mufti is appointed by the grand seignor, and generally holds his situation for life. He is sovereign pontiff, expounder of the law of Mahomet, and supreme director of all religious concerns. He is regarded as the oracle of sanctity and wisdom; and, having an extensive authority, both over the actions and consciences of men, his office is one of the most dignified and lucrative in the empire. The sultan consults him on all momentous occasions; salutes him with marked respect; and never refuses him an audience. To him is the interpretation of all the mysterious parts of

the koran referred, which he explains according to the suggestions of conscience or whim, and from his decision there is no appeal. There are numerous cadis under him, of different ranks, to whom he commits the exposition of questions of trifling moment, and who relieve him from the drudgery of his office.

The koran comprehending both the canonical and civil law of the Turks, the character and profession of a priest and a lawyer are blended in one. The effendis, who are in possession of all the literature and liberal arts of the country, apply themselves to the study and elucidation of the book of Mahomet and its commentators; to the cultivation of poetry, arithmetic, and music; and from their body most of the great officers of the empire are generally chosen.

The Turks are extremely proud, which is one great cause of their gravity and taciturnity, laughter and familiar conversation being, in their ideas, derogatory from dignity. They affect to hold in

thorough contempt, the Greeks, the Jews, the Armenians, and the Franks, whom they abuse in the streets, calling them infidels and christian dogs. They do not, however, upbraid us with the name of infidels because we believe in Christ, whom they acknowlege to have been a great prophet; but because we disbelieve in the superior mission of their infallible Mahomet. The Grecks are oppressed by them in numberless ways; and as for the poor Jews, they are the object of such complete obloquy and scorn, that they are buffeted, and plucked by the beard, wherever they are met. In some few respects, however, the Turks are well-meaning, hospitable, and charitable. The bestowing of alms is one of the principal duties of their religion; and there are various institutions, in different parts of the empire, for the relief of poor mussulmans; for the erection and maintenance of hans for the accommodation of indigent travellers; and for enabling the needy to perform their pilgrimage to Mecca, Medina, and Jeru-

salem, which pious expedition every believer in the faith of Mahomet is bound to undertake, at least once, in the course of his life.

The pilgrims, from different countries, assemble at Damascus, Cairo, Babylon, and Zebir. They set out from Constantinople in a caravan in the month of May, and, as they advance, are joined by the faithful who flock from Natolia, Persia, and Egypt, and commonly augment their number to upwards of sixty thousand*. Those who have performed this devout journey are holden in high veneration, and are absolved from any crimes they may have committed. Their persons are protected from the extreme rigour of the law, being exempted from capital punishments; and the children who are born, during the absence of their fathers, are ranked among the inheritors of heaven.

The tomb of Mahomet, which is at

* See Habesci's Present State of the Ottoman Empire, p. 96.

Medina, is covered annually with richly embroidered tapestry, presented by the grand seignor, who also sends with it, a sum of money; a koran richly bound and embossed with gold and silver; and several pieces of black cloth for the hangings of the temple and the mosch at Mecca. They are transported thither on a camel, gaily decorated, which, on its return, has the privilege of being maintained, for the remainder of its life, without labour, at the public expence.

The Mahometan religion is glossed over with many specious arts, which are calculated to gain proselytes among an ignorant and superstitious people. Mahomet soon found the necessity of addressing himself to the senses, and holding out rewards which were within the comprehension of his unenlightened adherents. His lively imagination, aided by the singular disposition of the times, and operated upon by the cautious, but enthusiastic, ardour of his own mind, conceived a splendid and seductive description of the pleasures of the invi-

sible world. All that can excite desire, or inspire hope, or flatter fancy, is promised to his faithful followers, and the firm supporters of his cause; and a picture of sensuality is blended with a system of ethics which at once corrupts the heart, and imposes on the judgement. The promised rewards are the production of his own pen; but most of the moral lessons, with which the koran abounds, are copied from the old and new Testament, but principally from the old. This was done at first in order to conciliate the favour, and flatter the pride, of the Jews, who, in those days, were very numerous and powerful in Arabia. But, practising the policy of many other illustrious conquerors, he conciliated that he might ensnare; and, the moment his object was gained, his kindness was converted into hatred and persecution. The Mahometans acknowlege the law of Moses and of Christ, as well as that of their prophet, which latter, however, they consider as of superior authority: and these three creeds embrace the whole of their

ecclesiastical and civil institutes. Their principal article of faith is, that there is but one God, and that Mahomet is his prophet; and they have five commandments, the fulfilment of which is necessary to salvation. These are, to pray five times a day*; to fast during Lent; to be charitable to the poor; to make a pilgrimage to Mecca; and to perform their ablutions.

The Turks are very careful of their domestic animals. Of their horses they are passionately fond; and such is their kindness towards dogs and cats, that at Constantinople there is a public charity for their support. They nevertheless consider the dog as an impure animal, except the dog of the seven sleepers, which they hold in high veneration, and to which they assign a place in paradise, with the ass of Jesus Christ, and the borac of Mahomet, the beast on which the prophet made his pretended nocturnal journey to heaven †.

* Their hours of prayer are, between dawn and sunrise; at sunrise; at mid-day; between mid-day and sunset; and, at half an hour after sunset.

† See Sale's Koran, chap. xvii. and xviii. and d'Herbelot. Bib. Orient.

Their seminaries, for the instruction and enlargement of the human understanding, are not very numerous. They would ill accord with the spirit or principles of a government, which can only last in proportion as ignorance prevails. Yet there are, both at Constantinople and Brusa, royal colleges, where the students are instructed in Arabic and the knowledge of the koran. This is all that the scholars are permitted to learn, and, in general, all that the masters have the ability to teach.

Frequent efforts have been made to introduce the use of the press at Constantinople, which, if it met with encouragement, might, in the course of time, awaken the latent powers of the soul, and remove many of the prejudices which at present prevail. There can be no doubt that the art of printing, which so soon followed the revival of letters in Europe, contributed most powerfully to disseminate knowlege, and to excite that emulation which roused the spirit and energy of intellectual inquiry. Yet I conceive that this alone would not

have been sufficiently potent, to burst asunder the fetters which enchained the faculties of the human mind, and to give birth to those stupendous productions of genius, which have immortalized the exertions of modern wit. Whether a thirst after liberty proceed from moral, from physical, or from political causes; whether it be a sentiment inherent in the breasts of some nations; or whether it arise from a fortunate coincidence of circumstances, or the blind impulse of chance; of this I am certain, that the government forms the people, and that their moral character generally keeps pace with their progressive advancement in learning and arts. This remark is strongly exemplified in the chequered annals of the Turks. In the early periods of their history, whilst they led the free and primitive life of shepherds, they produced historians and poets, whose merit has been universally acknowleged. Their poetry is peculiarly beautiful. The diction is animated and forcible, and abounds in luxuriant fancy and sententious

wit. Where shall we find imagination more pregnant with wild originality than in their early authors? The descriptions of rural scenes and pastoral pleasures, of the generous fervour of friendship, and the tender impressions of love, are pictured in a warm and vehement strain, interspersed with glowing metaphor and lively allusion, and replete with pathetic eloquence and impassioned sentiment. But the moment the chains of despotism were forged, the soul experienced the fate of the body, the pressure was felt in every part, and, by degrees, all its energy and genius were lost.

Friday, among the Turks, is more respected than any other day in the week, because they believe it was on that day Mahomet fled from Mecca to Medina, to escape from the malignity of his persecutors; and from that period the celebrated era of the hegira bears date.

In their persons, independent of their dress, they are cleanly, their religion enjoining frequent ablutions; and, for the convenience of the public, fountains are

erected on all the principal roads of the empire. These ablutions are, indeed, so often repeated, that the punctual observance of them must be extremely troublesome, and, in many instances, is highly unnecessary and ridiculous; yet the Turks, in this respect, are very conscientious. But whilst they are so exact and pertinacious in attending to the outward forms and ceremonies of their religion, its essence and spirit are, in most cases, neglected; and, whilst they rigidly observe what they might with innocence omit, they openly violate what it is criminal to disobey. Unfortunately for the world, this reproach is, I fear, applicable to every other country as well as Turkey; for such is the folly and fallibility, or the perverseness and obduracy, of human nature, that the most sacred obligations are, very frequently, either openly infringed, or artfully evaded, when they are repugnant to our ideas of happiness, or inconsistent with our views of pleasure, convenience, or profit.

The use of wine is strictly forbidden by the koran; and the Turks, to elude the intention of this inconvenient prohibition, are obliged to have recourse to the following equivocation. They affirm, that rum, beer, and other liquors, which are distilled or extracted from grain, as they are never mentioned by their prophet, do not come within the intention of this law; and that, therefore, they may indulge in them without any impropriety, or the risk of incurring his displeasure. Truly, as if the spirit of the law were directed against any particular liquor, and not against every liquor, which has a tendency to produce intoxication, and, with intoxication, a numerous train of additional evils. How willingly men wander in errour, when knowlege is a restraint on their inclinations; and how sedulous are they to satisfy their consciences, at the expence both of intellect and truth! Many, however, do not attempt to conceal what these frivolous subterfuges are unable to palliate; and, when they have an opportunity, will drink wine, as well as rum and beer, in

pretty large doses. It is, even, not unusual with the porters and packers, when they have been working for you, to adopt the English custom, and ask for a few paras to drink your health; and, in times of war, the soldiers are often seen reeling about the streets, and committing all kinds of extravagancies. The licentious insolence of the troops is indeed unbounded, and is quite inconceivable to those who are unacquainted with the tyranny of a military government, and accustomed to the uniform and impartial protection of a mild system of laws. They follow, without restraint, the natural impetuosity of their passions, and enforce, to the utmost extent, those odious privileges which strength so generally and so meanly asserts over weakness. They dispossess the trembling villagers of their property, carrying off their sheep and poultry, and oblige the merchants and shopkeepers to sell their goods at a third of their value. They even frequently take them without paying any thing whatever: and if these poor wretches

presume to complain, they are punished with a severe beating, and, sometimes, with instant death *.

But the most horrid and destructive kind of inebriation is that which is occasioned by the immoderate use of opium. There is a place, at Constantinople, where the eaters of this drug assemble every evening, and where each man takes his dose, which soon begins to operate on his brain, and to produce the luxurious dreams of ideal happiness, and the animating illusions of inspired fancy. But this visionary bliss is of short duration; and, as the soporific effects of the opium subside, the lassitude and languor of life creep heavily through the veins, and pervade and unhinge the whole

* In these days, examples of this kind are not rare among Christians. The French, wherever they have been, have pursued this barbarous system; and their footsteps have been marked with pillage, confiscation, and slaughter. The general want of discipline and subordination in the army is, however, a certain indication of the weakness of the government. It is a proof that its very existence is dependent on the soldiery

system. These debauchees carry with them the marks of their intemperance. Their limbs are emaciated; their features are cadaverous and distorted; and their very countenances betray them to be the slaves of bestial appetite and depraved sensuality.

Mahometanism is divided into an almost incalculable number of sects, who regard each other with the most inveterate jealousy and hatred, and are constantly wielding, with determined animosity, the arms of polemical invective. It appears strange, that people of the same religion, but differing in a few immaterial and indeterminate points, should be more vehement and abusive in controversy, and more inimical in practice, than if they were of totally opposite faiths; yet this is certainly the case, both in the Christian and the Mahometan world.

Amongst these various religious sects, the dervises are the most remarkable as well as the most ridiculous. They are notorious hypocrites, pretending to be en-

tirely devoted to the service of God, and practising, at the same time, without compunction, every act of infamy and atrocity. These monks make vows of austerity, obedience, and chastity, which they engage in without reflection, and violate without scruple. They live chiefly in monasteries, subordinate to the regulations of a superior; but many of them are itinerant, and, under pretence of zeal for the propagation of their faith, they work on the superstition of the people, and obtain considerable donations. Mevelava, one of the sultans of Cogni (the antient Iconium) in Natolia, was their founder. Their principal convent is in that city, which is the usual residence of the general of their order. There are several kinds of dervises. Some are seen begging alms from door to door, making no discrimination between Turks and Christians. Others pretend to be dumb, and endeavour to excite compassion, by distorting their features, and displaying a thousand antic gestures; as if religion consisted in

the practice of those indecencies and absurdities, which nothing but a total deprivation of reason can excuse. They affect the extreme of misery; go with their legs and stomachs bare; wear coarse woollen next the skin, and a kind of blanket negligently thrown over their shoulders; imagining, like many of the monks in Christian countries, that if they, in this respect and a few others, submit to self-mortification; if they voluntarily encounter, and by their perseverance overcome, hardships which other men more wisely avoid, they secure to themselves, in the next world, a state of endless beatitude. Would these bigots lay aside such contemptible and unavailing notions, and practise that kind of mortification which is at present unknown to them, and which consists, not in sackcloth or partial stripes and fasting, but in the purification of the heart by the suppression of culpable and irregular desires; in endeavouring punctually to fulfil the real and important duties of life; and, by a sphere of honourable and useful occupation,

in contributing their example to the promotion of active virtue, and the discouragement of profligate sloth; they would then be useful and worthy members of society. There is another sect of dervises, still farther removed from any thing rational, whose chief occupation is dancing, with a few of their brethren, to the sound of the flute and other musical instruments, and turning round till they are quite exhausted, and can no longer endure the fatigue. They wear a bonnet of camel's hair on their heads, and a leathern girdle round their waists. Their garment, which hangs downwards like a woman's petticoat, when they are wheeling round, flies out from the velocity of the motion, and produces a very ridiculous effect, not unlike that which I have often seen exhibited by the fine dancers at our opera. These poor, misguided, infatuated wretches frequently continue this vertiginous movement for such a length of time, that they at last drop senseless on the floor from excessive exertion, when they are seized with vomit-

ing, and spitting of blood. They pretend that their founder Mevelava kept turning round, without stopping, for fourteen days (whilst his companion Hamsa played on the flute), after which, he fell into ecstasies, and received surprising revelations concerning the establishment of his order: and it is out of respect to his memory, and in imitation of his laudable example, that they perpetuate the practice of dancing to the sound of the flute, marking the time exactly, and moving quicker or slower, as the music varies. They fast every thursday till sunset; and, on tuesdays and fridays, they assemble before their superior, who reads a few sentences from the koran, which are followed by a sermon, by way of exposition. Whilst this ceremony lasts, they observe the most austere gravity, standing motionless, with their arms across, and their eyes fixed stedfastly on the ground, and, at the conclusion, they shout aloud—"There is but one God, and Mahomet is his prophet."—A signal is then given, and their exercises commence, which

cease, and are renewed several times, before they separate. Many of these monks pursue other avocations; but a system of imposition, acting, partly on themselves, and partly on others, appears to be the groundwork of their employment and their faith. They are great mountebanks, practise legerdemain, and profess to be skilled in the mysterious arts of divination, sorcery, and magic.

Gaming is strictly forbidden by the koran, and the Turks carefully refrain from cards and dice, those frequent sources of enmity, ruin, despair, and suicide, in Christian countries. They cannot, however, resist the allurements of chess, a game that exactly corresponds with the peculiar indolence of their manners, and the settled gravity of their tempers. An anecdote was not long since related to me, which proves, at once, their partiality for this amusement, and their indifference about matters of much higher concern. An aga, who had incurred the displeasure of his sovereign, received the warrant for his execution,

whilst he was engaged at this favourite pastime. The game was nearly over, and he earnestly entreated the officers, who were the messengers of his fate, to delay the fulfilment of the sentence for a few minutes, that he might have the satisfaction of beating his adversary. His request was granted; and, when the match was finished, exulting at his superiority, he thanked them for their civility and condescension, kissed the order which was to deprive him of life, and submitted, with the greatest composure, to the stroke of the executioner.

The precarious possession of property generally renders men cautious and avaricious. What has been amassed with trouble, is concealed with care, and separated from with regret. Thus the Turks seldom enjoy the opulence they have acquired. They are afraid to live in splendour, or to spend their money freely, lest, by disclosing the extent of their affluence, they should excite the spirit of extortion and cupidity in the breasts of their superiors.

Immense sums are, from this well-grounded want of confidence, withdrawn from circulation, and the state is deprived of one of its best supports.

In eating they are rather abstemious, making but one hearty meal a day, which is towards the evening. Yet they are fond of spices, high-seasoned stews, and rich sauces; and their entertainments, consisting of a multitude of different viands, which are placed on the table only one at a time, frequently last for several hours. Pilau, prepared in various ways, is a standing dish, and is generally flavoured with chickens, or sheep's tails. Knives and forks are never introduced; but they roast their meat very much, and tear it to pieces with their fingers, always, however, as I have elsewhere observed, washing their hands before and after every meal.

Although their houses, on the outside, have but a mean appearance, those belonging to the rich are very spacious, and are fitted up commodiously, and at an astonishing expence. The ceilings are generally

painted; the floors are spread with rich Persian carpets; and the wainscots are ornamented with distichs of Arabic, and, not unfrequently, inlaid with china, ivory, and mother-of-pearl. But the furniture in which they principally display their magnificence and taste, is the sofa, which is always fixed at one end of the room, traversing it from side to side. It is raised about two feet from the ground, is broad in the seat, and lined throughout with large cushions, which are covered with the most costly embroidered cloth, and edged with fringe of gold. At night, they spread their mattresses on these sofas, and convert them into beds. They perfume their rooms with sandal and aloes wood, and many of the apartments are embellished with marble fountains, which throw out scented water. The houses of persons of consequence and rank are always provided with baths for the accommodation of the family, and with a haram, in which they confine their women, and which must exhibit a complicated scene of

luxury and vice, and be the spot where many a real tragedy is performed. These apartments, which are fitted up with pompous magnificence and confused taste, are in the most retired part of the premises, and are surrounded and secured by lofty walls. To keep them well ventilated, they have large doors and windows, and, before them, are spacious areas, which are paved with marble, and decorated with fountains, kiosks, shrubberies of evergreens, and parterres of flowers. The haram is strictly and cautiously guarded by eunuchs, and no man, except the tyrant (I cannot use a more appropriate term) to whom it belongs, is allowed to enter. Locks and bolts cannot, however, either extinguish, or confine, the instincts of nature; and the women, with the assistance of the Jews, contrive to carry on many intrigues, particularly at the season of the bairam, when there is a general relaxation of vigilance, and when they are sometimes permitted to visit the public baths, and even to walk about the streets. I have only been speak-

ing of the women belonging to the rich, for the higher the quality of the person the more rigorous is the confinement. Those in the families of shopkeepers, and people of that description, are not watched by eunuchs, and frequent the public baths three or four times a week, for the master of the house could ill support the expence of such an attendance, or of baths at home.

The Turks receive their visitors with a great deal of ceremony, but, at the same time, with courtesy and hospitality. On their entrance, they rise, and respectfully salute them by a slight inclination of the head, and, placing the hand on the heart, utter benedictions for their prosperity and health. They then present them with pipes, coffee, sweetmeats, sherbet, and perfumes.

In their persons they are rather robust, of a dark complexion, and may certainly be accounted a handsome race of men. Yet the inertness of their minds gives them a heavy countenance, and the gra-

vity of their manners conveys an unpleasant formality and stiffness to their features.

Their dress, which is not subject to the caprices of fashion, is calculated to conceal the defects, as well as the graces, of the human form, which is probably the reason that strangers imagine, there are scarcely any deformed people in Turkey. It consists of a close vest, called a doliman, over which they wear a short jacket, which is covered with a robe, fitted to the arms, but loose in other respects, and reaching down to the heels. This upper garment is of cloth, camlet, or silk, according to the season of the year, and is fastened with small buttons, and a girdle in which they carry their pistols, knives, and dagger. Their breeches reach down to the middle of the leg, and hang about them like a sack. Their stockings are very short, and their slippers are of Morocco leather (generally yellow), a sock of which is worn over the stocking. When they sit on a sofa, lest they should soil it, they always take off their slippers, and keep on their

socks. Many of them wear no linen next the skin. It is only the rich who can afford this indulgence. They universally shave their heads, except a little tuft which is left on the crown. All those attached to the learned professions, let their beards grow, conceiving that they impart a certain dignity and gravity to the character; and they hold them in such respect, that they even swear by them. They frequently have them dyed, and shaped with the nicest exactness, remaining a considerable time under the hands of their barbers, who are mostly Greeks, and very expert at their trade. The military are satisfied with whiskers, and the commonalty shave, or wear their beards, indifferently. But the grandest part of their dress is the turban, with which none but mussulmans are allowed to appear. All their taste and fancy are displayed in this article of apparel, which, according to the whimsical suggestions of individual opinion, is fashioned into an endless variety of ornament and shape. It consists of two pieces, the cap which

covers the crown of the head, and the sash which is wrapped round it, and which they frequently spend as much time in adjusting, as our beaux in tying their cravats. Those of the opulent are composed of the finest muslin or linen; but the poor content themselves with a coarse stuff that is manufactured in the country. The descendants of Mahomet, by his daughter Fatima, are called emirs, and are alone permitted to appear in green, which distinguishes them from the other mussulmans. They were at first all destined for the church; but, their number rapidly increasing, they have long since been obliged to have recourse to other employments to procure a livelihood. Mule-drivers, and people in the lowest capacity, are now often seen with this badge of honour, and, in spite of their poverty and their profession, are very proud of the distinction. It is dangerous for any to assume it who cannot trace their genealogy from the prophet; and if a Frank were to enter the Turkish quarter of a city, in a green

coat, he would run the risk of being torn to pieces by the mob.

With regard to the women, you must depend on the accounts of others, as no man, but he to whom they belong, is ever permitted to see them. As, however, I have mentioned them, I shall beg leave to add, that my ideas of their happiness are totally opposite to those of a justly celebrated female writer*; and, I think, that by a reference to the strongest principles of our nature, the validity and correctness of my opinion may be easily established.

In a country where a plurality of wives is authorized by law, and where one man, in addition to this licence, is permitted, without any breach of the morality which he has been taught, to immure in his haram as many female slaves as his purse can purchase, the sex must infallibly be tyrannized over, and insulted.

* Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

They are deprived of their natural rights. They are denied their natural protection. They are degraded from the station which Nature intended them to occupy, and, instead of being the companions, are the dependants, of the men. They are forbidden the chaste enjoyments of reciprocal friendship and love. They are robbed of their dignity and honour, which are their brightest attractions. They are forced to stifle or disguise the most generous feelings of the heart, and to blunt that elegant and exalted sensibility of soul which adds a secret and inexpressible value to all their charms. They are compelled to pay obedience to a wretch whom they despise, and, whilst they despise, to submit to the gratification of his desires. Can any thing be more unjust? Can any thing be more horrible? Are these the suggestions of morality, or the dictates of Nature?—No! —They are an abandoned perversion of her purest, her mildest, her most valuable sentiments. They are the offspring of the

basest policy, aggravated by the meanest passions. They are the result of tyranny inflamed by jealousy and lust. They are a shameless, opprobrious despotism, exercised by the powerful and strong over the weak and helpless: and, whatever is so wide, so revolting, a deviation from those propensities and principles, which Nature has, in distinct and indelible characters, written in our hearts, cannot possibly be productive of any other feelings but those of indignation, hatred, and misery.

The prejudices which the Turks entertain against their women, are, indeed, one of the great causes of their own inflexible barbarism. An amiable and accomplished female is the chief benefit and embellishment of society. The mildness of her character, and the gentleness of her manners, help to temper and to polish our rougher and sterner dispositions; and by the love and respect which she uniformly awakens in every civilized

breast, she upholds and preserves half those institutions, which contribute to grace the various occupations of social life.

Yours, &c.

HUNGARIAN RESEARCH
NEW YORK, N. Y.

LETTER XXIII.

Tour Rouge, June 29, 1792.

THE Greeks are, in every respect, a separate and distinct race of people from the Turks; in their religion, in their customs, in their ideas, in their passions, in their pursuits, in their interests. We are not therefore to be surprised, if they regard each other with mutual aversion. It has, indeed, long been the fervent hope of the Greeks, that the power and ambition of Russia will one day deliver them from the despotism of the Turks, and they look to the subversion of the Ottoman empire by their northern neighbours, with as much zeal as, and infinitely more probability than, the Jews to the coming of their Messiah.

The Greeks are a much more active, lively, penetrating, and industrious people

than the Turks; yet I am at a loss to determine whether, on the whole, their character be entitled to a larger measure of our esteem.

The only qualities, which have been transmitted to them from their ancestors, are cunning and deceit; which, by continual practice, and by applying them to the various transactions of life, they have perhaps extended and refined.

They are extremely loquacious, and, when they address you, are as fertile in gestures as in words. Their passions are strong, and their disposition is composed of a singular contrariety of affections; for they are, at once, cheerful and sullen; irritable and obstinate; revengeful and capricious; and they pass through, with surprising celerity, the most distant transitions of temper.

Although totally unacquainted with the powers of harmony or the rules of composition, they are passionately fond of music, and many of them sing, and play on some musical instrument. But their airs, for

the most part, consist of such a strange succession of discordant notes, without even the wild melody of nature to recommend them, that I never derived any pleasure from the efforts of their skill.

There is another peculiarity, in the disposition of a Greek, deserving of notice. If you chance to stand in need of his assistance, it frequently happens that he is not inclined to grant it; and, when this is the case, no persuasion, nor any moderate recompence, can prevail on him to serve you; but he will stubbornly persist in a denial till you have recourse to violence, blows being the only arguments that prove efficacious. Whilst at Galatz we witnessed a remarkable instance of this inflexibility of temper. We had purchased some flour of a miller, who brought it home in a sack, which, as we had no convenient place to keep it in, we begged he would, for a few days, allow to remain in our hands. This request he positively and repeatedly refused to grant. Our Greek apothecary was with us, and listened with

patience, for a short time, to this fellow's unaccommodating answers. At last, he flew at him, in a violent passion, and, giving him some severe blows with a stick across the shoulders, took the sack from him, and said, that was the only way of managing such rascals. The poor miller did not venture to resist, but immediately gave up his sack, which, however, we had too much humanity to accept, on such terms.

The Greeks employ themselves in the contracted branches of commerce, but have not the capacity to pursue it on an enlarged and liberal scale. They are, in general, very avaricious, and their thirst after money, hurrying them into speculative plans, which are beyond their comprehension, is frequently the cause of their ruin. Every thing is sacrificed to the hopes of profit. Of honour or generosity they have not the remotest idea; and their great aim is to overreach you by artifice and falsehood.

When in any office of authority, they

shew as great a disposition to pride, extortion, and tyranny, as the Turks. They openly violate every principle of justice and humanity, and commit acts of the most iniquitous and atrocious villany, without compunction. They are universally dreaded and detested by their inferiors, and, when they are deposed, the rejoicings and acclamations of the multitude are general and sincere. What can be the pleasures of power, when it is possessed on such terms? The life of a tyrant must be a life of endless wretchedness and perplexity. He must know that injustice begets resentment and enmity, and, knowing that, although lodged within ramparts, and surrounded with guards, he must live in perpetual anxiety and fear. Having himself broken through every restraint of justice and morality, he must suspect that they are not more reverenced by others, and must distrust his very associates and friends.

A great many of the menial servants in Turkey are Greeks, who come chiefly

from Tino, (one of the islands in the Archipelago which I have already mentioned) whither they return, when they have amassed enough wealth to live at ease, and enjoy themselves. They then become great men, (for the majority of the inhabitants is very poor), give balls, dress gaily, and keep sumptuous tables. Their houses are principally furnished with what their dexterity has supplied them with, during the time they were in service; and gentlemen, who have been there, relate, that, at their feasts, scarcely two napkins or two spoons are to be seen with the same mark; for they not only pilfer from their master, but from all his friends, whenever an opportunity presents itself.

But though they are such errant rogues, they have some scruples of conscience about breaking an oath; in confirmation of which, I shall relate an anecdote which I heard at Smyrna, and which occurred only a few years back. An English merchant had discharged his cook for stealing, and,

being in treaty with another, he asked him if he would be satisfied with an hundred piastres a year for his services, to which he readily agreed. But, says the merchant, provided you will take an oath to live with me like an honest man, and commit no theft whilst you remain in my family, I will double your wages. On which, the Greek, fearful of violating so solemn an engagement, and, at the same time, considering the additional sum of one hundred piastres as but a poor equivalent for what he might acquire by his dexterity, frankly refused the place.

Of all the subjects of Turkey, the Greeks are the most experienced in nautical affairs. They build, under the direction of European artists, almost all the ships of war, and to the levants or marine soldiers, employed in the service of the state, a certain proportion of Greek sailors is always added, to manage the sails and rigging. But the maritime force of the Turks has long been on the decline, and the last war furnished an ample proof of

their want of discipline, courage, and skill.

Many of the Greek women have pretty faces; but I have remarked very few with an elegant, well proportioned shape, which I attribute, in great measure, to their indolent habits, and to their custom of sitting on sofas, with their legs tucked under them, after the Turkish fashion. They are of a dark complexion; their eyes and hair are almost black; and their countenances are animated and expressive. Their dress varies in every country; but it is always whimsical, and sometimes very becoming. At Constantinople and Smyrna especially, those, who can afford the expence, have generally sufficient skill to add to their personal charms by a graceful and ornamental attire. Their head-dress consists of a turban*, which is commonly of white muslin, with a cap of red cloth, of

* The head-dress of the Greeks is not strictly speaking a turban, which, as I have already observed, none but Turks are allowed to wear.

a conical form, rising at the top. In front, there is a large knot, and, on the right side, a piece of stuff of the same quality as the turban, which is edged with gold or silver embroidery, and hangs flowing down below the waist. The whole is fantastically adorned with a profusion of natural or artificial flowers. The Polonese gown very much prevails; but their aversion from stays is universal. In this I think they give proofs of their taste and good sense: for they are a ridiculous invention, both destructive of health and beauty, and a restraint on that graceful flexibility and elegant ease, which impart such an irresistible charm to the female form. There is surely a standard of taste in dress, as well as in every thing else, which has a foundation in nature, and which, in spite of the acquired prejudices of habit and education, must always be viewed with delight. But what will not fashion, aided by vanity, accomplish? It obtains over us an all-powerful sway, and, what frequently no sense of duty is able to ef-

fect, it will induce us to abandon our pursuits, to renounce our pleasures, and to submit, with cheerfulness, not only to inconvenience, but to pain.

The Greek, or Eastern church, after upwards of two centuries of mutual enmity and reproach, was finally separated from the Latin, or Western church, in the time of Michael Cerularius, who was appointed to the patriarchate of Constantinople in the year 1043. They had split in opinion on the mysterious doctrines of faith, and their controversies were carried on with a virulence of animosity, that left no hope of reconciliation.

The four bishops of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, have the title of patriarch, of which the patriarch of Constantinople is the acknowleged head. He is elected by the twelve metropolitans who reside nearest the capital; but, before he can exercise the functions of his office, his nomination must be ratified by the grand seignor. The Greek church again branches into two powerful

parties, of which one recognizes the supreme authority of the patriarch of Constantinople; whilst the other, although the doctrines and ceremonies of their religion, in all material points, coincide, disclaims his jurisdiction, and is governed by their own laws.

In religious concerns the Greeks, as well as the Turks, are unfortunately situated, for they are under the absolute dominion of an illiterate and rapacious clergy, who resort to the lowest arts to extort money from their submission and credulity. The priests, by their cunning and hypocrisy, have discovered the method of influencing all their actions, and guiding all their sentiments; and they are anxious to retain this unlimited empire over them, not that they may prompt them to virtue, by instructing them in the duties of religion; but that they may pamper their own insatiable avarice, by taking advantage of their superstition. These holy pastors create dissensions, and foment disputes, purposely that they may be called in as mediators;

and, as they never bestow their benediction, or give their advice, gratis, many of them derive the greatest part of their income from this laudable practice. My brother was one day witness to a particular instance of their covetousness and deceit. A common labourer had built a boat, at a small distance from the sea shore, which, when finished, was brought to the strand on rollers, attended by a great concourse of people, with a priest at their head, arrayed in his pontifical robes. When the boat was launched into the water, the priest entered it, and, turning with great solemnity to the east, muttered a short incoherent prayer. He then addressed himself to the owner, and, with unparalleled effrontery, assured him, that his boat would enjoy an uninterrupted series of prosperity; and, on receiving his fee for the good news he had announced, walked off, very well contented with his day's business.

The Greeks are also, in some measure, predestinarians. When they are hesitating about the price or quality of a bale of

goods, and are at a loss which way to decide, they will stop the first passenger, and be determined by his opinion. Whilst, however, predestination is confined within these limits, it cannot be attended with much mischief.

The most shameful simony pervades every branch of the Greek hierarchy, from the patriarchate to the lowest office in the church. The outward forms of their religion are extravagantly pompous. The marriages and burials of the affluent are attended with an astonishing expense; and the sacerdotal garments are covered with the most gaudy ornaments. The secular clergy is allowed to marry once; but the monks, who are very numerous, are restricted to a life of celibacy, and enjoined the observance of continual penance and mortification. Many of them go sauntering about the streets, and pick up a livelihood by hearing people confess; granting an absolution for sins; and practising other similar mummeries, which are such a

profitable branch of the trade of a priest in Roman catholic countries.

Such are the leading features in the present character of this once great and enlightened people. Who can recur to the remembrance of what they once were, and draw the contrast between their former glory and their present abasement, without being convinced of the melancholy and disastrous effects of a venal and tyrannic government? What is become of the seat of liberty and learning? Where is that nation of heroes, legislators, orators, philosophers, and poets? Where are those artists whose incomparable productions in painting, sculpture, and architecture, have so often animated the historian's pen? Where are those majestic temples, those splendid festivals, those inspiring games? But, above all, where is that generous patriotism, that magnanimous ardour, that noble enthusiasm of soul, which roused to energy every active principle of the mind; which quickened the growth of honest emulation; which

subdued every mean and sordid passion; which enabled them to struggle, with persevering fortitude, against every difficulty; to surmount obstacles the most arduous and revolting; and to despise life itself, when its preservation was incompatible with the sentiments of honour or the practice of virtue? Where are all those luminous qualities which insured to their ancestors the universal suffrage of mankind? Vanished like a shade before the appalling apparatus of despotism, and exchanged for groveling ignorance, cringing humility, and hypocritical cunning.

Respecting the government, of which I shall only say a few words, it is, in an unlimited degree, despotic and oppressive. It disclaims the law of nature, equity, and reason, and exhibits an amplification of injustice, tyranny, and vice. It tramples on the most sacred rights and privileges of humanity, and is formed to perpetuate the horrours of cruelty and the ravages of desolation. It palsies the towering efforts of genius; it checks the useful inquiries of

curiosity; it stifles every sentiment and pursuit which are calculated to promote the glory, or the happiness, or the embellishment, of society. The sultan is deemed omnipotent, and is revered like a God. He has the power of life and death over all his subjects, and from his decision there is no appeal. Such, indeed, is the wonderful force of prejudice and education, that men, who enjoy the first dignities of the state, when the warrant for their execution is signed, will, without hesitation, obey the ordinance, and bless the hand which deprives them of existence. So far from making any opposition, or even remonstrance, they frequently consider it as the consummation of glory, that their career should be terminated by a command from their sovereign, and willingly conclude their services by this final proof of their fidelity and submission. How strange, how unaccountable, an infatuation! that men, from mere stupidity and inertness of intellect, should be prevailed on to contemplate the ruinous dispensations of the

most odious and repugnant tyranny, not only with complacency, but with veneration; and that they should be so insensible to the value of their natural rights, as to submit, without repining, to the privation of every rational enjoyment, and cheerfully to surrender life itself, whenever a rapacious despot chooses to demand it.

Some few years back, an aga, near Smyrna, set up the standard of rebellion against his sovereign, and was joined by a numerous band of adherents. The emperor, as soon as the intelligence of this treasonable conspiracy reached him, privately dispatched two of his emissaries to destroy him, who, by some artifice, contrived to enter his chamber without being noticed, and seized him unawares. The noise, which was occasioned by the struggle, alarmed his guards, who immediately repaired to the spot, and were preparing to rescue him from these ruffians, when they unfolded the roll of paper, containing the order of the grand seignor for the imme-

diate execution of their chief. Struck with a kind of religious awe at the sight of his signet, they fell on their knees, kissed the sacred mandate, and tamely beheld their captain beheaded in their presence.

Unlimited, however, as the authority of the sultan is, he still finds it necessary to preserve measures with the janizaries, who are the standing army of the empire, and who, although dispersed through various parts of the country, are firmly united by one common and indissoluble bond of interest and self-preservation. The frequent revolutions, which have been occasioned by their intrigues, furnish the clearest proof of their power and influence, and have taught the government to respect a force which it is unable to control. Being entirely supported by the soldiery, it is also entirely at their mercy. They are at the head of all popular commotions, and, when they are dissatisfied, they set fire to the city ; and pillage, rapine, and murder, are dealt around with a ready

hand and a remorseless heart. The life of the sultan himself is not always secure from these paroxysms of rage, and he, who is the master of millions of slaves, sits trembling on his throne for his own safety. Like the prætorian bands of Rome, the only way of appeasing them is by bestowing largesses, and increasing their privileges. Orchan was the original institutor of this military corps, which was formerly composed of the tribute children, who were brought up in the seraglio, and instructed in the religion of Mahomet and the profession of arms. Their discipline was extremely severe, and they were not allowed the indulgence of marriage; a tie which, by attaching him to the comforts and repose of domestic life, certainly relaxes the ardour of a soldier, and slackens his career in the pursuit of military fame. This rigid subordination is not however maintained at present, and they are totally degenerated from the lofty eminence of their ancient character. They no longer cultivate those virtues which rendered

them an impenetrable rampart against the assaults of their antagonists; and they totally neglect those exercises which inured them to fatigue: which augmented their agility and strength; and familiarized them with all the opposite and complex duties of a soldier. They ought to consist of one hundred and sixty regiments, of one thousand men each; but they always fall far short of this complement; and there are seldom above twenty thousand of them at Constantinople, who are lodged in barracks in different quarters of the city. Besides their ordinary stipend, which is from ten to twelve aspars a day, the emperor furnishes them with a part of their dress; distributes bread and rice among them daily; and, when they join the army, provides them with horses and camels for the transportation of their baggage. They are both respected, and dreaded, by the common people; and they possess privileges and immunities which distinguish them from all the other subjects of Turkey, and afford an irrefragable proof of the insufficiency of

the government to oppose their claims. The supreme command of them is vested in an aga, whose authority none dare venture to retrench, and who asserts the peculiar right of appearing before his master without crossing his arms; a token of humiliation and reverence which every other subject observes. Besides the regular janizaries, there is a second order who assume the name, but who are not enrolled with those at the Porte. This is a title purchased in the provinces, and skreens those who bear it from the ordinary course of justice, and excuses them from the payment of taxes, and the discharge of almost every public duty or trust.

Next to the janizaries, the largest corps of infantry is the artillery, which ought to amount to twenty thousand men; but the Turks are miserable engineers, and their field pieces are so unwieldy, and the carriages so clumsily constructed, that, in time of action, they are at a loss how to manage them.

The bostangis, or body-guard of the sultan, which should consist of twelve thousand men, are commanded by a pacha, who holds a very high and responsible office. He attends the grand seignor in his gardens; steers his boat when he goes on the water; serves as a foot-stool when he mounts his horse; and has the absolute command over all the gardeners belonging to the seraglio, and the other palaces in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

The sphahis*, or Turkish cavalry, are obedient to the orders of an aga, who is also invested with a dangerous extent of power. Their weapons are a lance and cymetar, in the use of which they are surprisingly expert. They also wear fire-arms in their girdles, and some of them carry bows and arrows slung across their shoulders. But they are no longer holden in their former estimation, and their number, which ought to amount to two hundred and twenty

* I make use of sphahis as the general term for cavalry, including the Zaims, Timariots, and other subordinate corps.

thousand, is glaringly deficient. There are other regiments of cavalry, of inferior rank, which are raised by the governors of provinces, and maintained at their expense; and the marine department should be able to muster a body of fifty thousand men.

If this immense military establishment, were duly and regularly organized, and composed of hardy and valiant men, it might create the susceptible jealousy and prudent fear of every other power, and be dangerous, or even fatal, to the liberties and independence of Europe. But a total relaxation of discipline, and degeneracy of personal enthusiasm, pervade every department and branch of the army; and such is the shameful deficiency of the regiments, from the neglect and corruption of their officers, that, during the late war, which required every exertion, the whole military and naval force of the Ottoman empire, scarcely ever exceeded, at any one time, four hundred thousand men.

The Turks might easily become a formidable maritime power, if a spirit of enterprize and ambition could be awakened in

their sluggish breasts, and directed to the attainment of that important object. The coasts of the Euxine furnish them, in abundance, with wood, cordage, and almost every material which is requisite for the construction or equipment of vessels; and the admirable situation of their seas and rivers holds out advantages, in commercial pursuits, which no other country can boast. But their marine is in such a declining state, and under such bad regulations, that it is scarcely equal to the task of protecting their merchant-vessels, and their coasts, from the Barbary corsairs, who are continually insulting their flag, and committing the most daring depredations on their trade. The captain pacha, an office which corresponds to that of our lord high admiral, has the entire management of the concerns of the fleet, and, when he is beyond the Dardanelles, his authority is absolute. He is accountable to no one but the sultan for his actions, and the grand vizir is the only civil or military officer that takes precedence of him.

The post of grand vizir is the most eminent and perilous to which a subject can aspire. He is prime minister of the empire, and ranks next to the sultan. His power is almost unlimited, and his orders are no sooner issued than obeyed. He has the entire management of the finances, and of foreign affairs; sits as judge in all civil and criminal causes; is at the head of the war department; and commander in chief of the armies. When he is appointed, the sultan delivers to him the seal of the empire, which he affixes to his orders without consulting, or being accountable to, any one. He lives in great magnificence; has a strong guard to protect his person; and a numerous train of domestics to support his pomp. His nominal salary is not very great; but his perquisites are enormous, as almost all the honours and charges of the empire, except those of the judicature, are at his entire disposal. All foreign ambassadors, at their first audience, make him rich presents, and no person can transact any business with the Porte, without first purchasing his friendship. Whoever is

appointed to the government of a province is also obliged to pay him a considerable sum; and if avarice be his prevailing passion, he can, without risk, extort money from all ranks and descriptions. His riches, however, are frequently the cause of his downfall; for when his master thinks him an object worthy of pillage, he willingly sacrifices him to the justice and indignation of the public; and, as a reward for such an exertion of patriotic magnanimity, secures his wealth in his own coffers. The life of the grand vizir is also, in other respects, a very precarious tenure. He is surrounded with secret enemies, who are continually engaged in plots and conspiracies to accomplish his ruin. If the affairs of the empire prosper during his administration, the praise is his sovereign's; if the people be discontented and tumultuous; or if any undertaking fail of success, he forfeits his head: so that he must not only deserve good fortune; he must do more, he must command it. He has subordinate vizirs in

constant attendance, to whom he refers affairs of little consequence, and who relieve him from a multiplicity of troublesome business.

In Turkey no dignity is hereditary, nor is any person advanced to distinction, in consideration of his talents or his merit. It is even the constant policy of the Porte, to guard against the elevation of the children of those who have already filled eminent stations, that no particular family may lay the foundation of power, and that all may derive their rank and fortune immediately from the bounty of their master. The whole machinery of the government turns on the wheels of corruption. An avowed and scandalous venality contaminates every branch of the administration, and the most worthless of men may purchase the privilege of being maintained, without application or labour, from the coffers of the public. Every office, from the highest to the lowest, is sold to the best bidder; and the money, which is thus

basely exacted, forms one of the principal branches of the income of the prince.

The fixed and regular revenues of the empire arise from the customs; the capitation on Jews and Christians; the land tax, imposed on the produce of the earth; and the annual tributes from Egypt, the Morea, and the islands in the Archipelago, and from Moldavia, and Walachia, which, although governed by their own princes, admit the supreme sovereignty of the Porte. Besides these perennial sources of opulence, the sultan amasses immense sums by the plunder of those who have accumulated riches in his service; by his succession to the property of his most opulent subjects; and by the valuable presents which he receives from those in office, which always bear a proportion to the emolument and dignity of the trust. As his last resource, when his treasury is exhausted by necessary disbursements or improvidential extravagancies, he endeavours to make up the deficiency by seizing on the treasures of the moschs.

The improvement, or the satisfaction, which can be derived from travelling through a country thus inhabited, and thus governed, cannot be very great; for although the follies, and even the vices, of mankind, may afford many useful and monitory lessons to a mind of discernment; yet the uniform exhibition of the defects of our nature, can only inspire pity, contempt, disgust, or humiliation. Such however, in a greater or less degree, has been the scene, which I have been obliged to contemplate, during my residence in Turkey. Not that I mean to insinuate that every man is equally depraved, or that the amiable qualities of the heart are totally unknown; but that such glaring instances of oppression and rapaciousness on one side, and of submission and pusillanimity on the other, are so continually occurring, that one is led to despise the predominant disposition of the people. Haughty, cruel, and overbearing, when in power; that power annihilated, cringing, humble, and irresolute; their

different situations only serve to delineate the various shades of a weak and vitiated mind.

In the hands of a well-governed, civilized and enlightened people, Turkey would certainly be one of the most beautiful and productive countries in the world. Under the dominion of the Turks, the greatest part of it is suffered to remain in an uncultivated state; and if some rich and magnificent scenery now and then present itself, it is generally to be ascribed to the bounties of nature, and not to the exertions, the ingenuity, or the refinements, of art.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

Buda, July 5, 1792.

WHAT pleasure can be more exquisite than that, which a prisoner experiences on the day of emancipation? Judge then of our sensations, when we were released, on the 30th of June, from our confinement at Tour Rouge, after having been detained there ten tedious days. With what velocity does time fly, when it is agreeably employed; but, when the mind is anxious and discontented, how incessantly does it require the spur!

Our desire to reach Vienna had increased, in proportion to the numerous obstructions and disappointments which had, since our departure from Constantinople, so frequently foiled our expecta-

tions: and, I can assure you, that scarcely any temptation or recompense could have prevailed on us to deviate from the direct road.

About a quarter of a mile from the lazaretto, just beyond one of our boundaries, there is an inn, which had supplied us with our scanty and miserable fare, during our imprisonment, and which was also to provide us with horses for the first stage of our long journey. From the specimen the landlord had already given us of his accommodations, I did not augur any good opinion of his ability in this way; nor was I far wrong, for his stud consisted but of three wretched hacks, which were in so weak and hungry a condition, that, after waiting a considerable time, we were at last obliged to have recourse to the aid of a neighbouring farmer. Horses which have been accustomed to the plough have no notion of quick movements. If, by dint of whipping and spurring, you can get them into what is called a jog trot, you accomplish no small matter; and, had it not

been for the continual labour and exertion of our postillions, they would have gone the plough-pace the whole way.

When we reached the town of Tour Rouge, we did not forget to call on our friend monsieur Maltus, who had been so kind to us during our misfortunes. He received us with a great deal of warmth; insisted on our stopping to take some refreshments with him; and did every thing in his power to detain us the remainder of the day. I really regretted, that our arrangements would not permit us to comply with his request, for I should have been very glad to have been better acquainted with him. We meet indeed with so few who are willing to serve us without the prospect of reward, that a man of a friendly and disinterested heart, is a rare and valuable acquisition.

We were obliged to pay a visit to the governor of the castle of this place, to lay before him a paper which had been given us by the director of the lazaretto, certifying that we had come from Turkey, and

had duly performed quarantine. The castle stands on the summit of a hill, and we mounted a full half mile before we reached the apartments of the governor, whom we found deeply engaged in his studies, and surrounded with plans of towns and fortifications. He invited us into his room with the formal ceremony of an old German officer who had passed his life in camps; asked us a few trivial questions concerning our travels; and, having dispatched our business, attended us to the door, and wished us a prosperous journey.

After leaving Tour Rouge, we met with no further interruption, and got pretty early in the day to Hermanstadt, where, on account of the goodness of the inn, we remained till the next morning, that we might have an opportunity, after the bad fare and broken slumbers of the lazaretto, to recruit our strength by the luxuries of a good dinner and a sound sleep.

When I was shewn into my chamber, I was much struck with the peculiarity of my bed, for, although common enough

in this country, it was different from any thing of the kind I had hitherto seen. Instead of a quilt and blankets for a covering, I was supplied with a second feather-bed, so that my position at night was between two immense masses of feathers, and not, I can tell you, to my taste at least, a very comfortable one. To balance this inconvenience, they provided us, at a moderate expence, with an excellent dinner, and, in the morning, with a delicious breakfast of chocolate, for which this country is famed, and which is, in fact, the best I ever tasted. They have an admirable method of preparing it, and serve up with it a particular kind of roll, which is superior to the finest bread. I dare say you will observe, that I speak on these subjects with an unusual degree of animation; but if you had been living with us, for ten days, in that land of famine, Tour Rouge, you would not be at all surprised.

Hermanstadt is situated on a rising ground in the middle of an extensive plain,

on the banks of the Zibin, which, at the distance of a few miles from the city, falls into the Alt. It is the capital of Transylvania *, and was the residence of the ancient princes of the country. It is large, populous, and well-built, and is of great importance, on account of the strength of its fortifications, which are the principal defence of the frontiers of this part of the emperor's dominions. It has four gates, the care of which is intrusted to the four corporate companies of the town, who regularly keep guard, and who, at night, are bound to answer the watchman's horn, which is blown at stated hours in the streets. The cathedral is an old edifice with a lofty tower, and the houses are substantially built of brick, which is plastered and white-washed. The streets are regular and well paved, and, having water con-

* Although Transylvania is a separate country from Hungary, and is governed by distinct laws, as I dwell so little on the subject, I have not thought it worth while to insert it in the running title, but have included it under the general head of Hungary.

veyed through them from the river, in small channels, are kept remarkably neat and clean. This city can boast of public schools and charitable institutions, and within the walls are public granaries *, in

* How far public granaries, in this country, might answer the purposes, in times like the present, of keeping down the price of wheat, and preventing monopolies, I cannot exactly pretend to say. There are some objections against them; but they would also be attended with many salutary consequences; and the country requires the adoption of some plan to reduce the high price of the indispensable articles of life, which, if they continue increasing as they have done for the last two years, are ten times more likely to ruin us, than the burden of our national debt. I lament our present situation still more, because I am convinced, as far at least as I can rely on my own observation, that it does not arise, by any means in its full extent, from real scarcity. In the course of the last summer I travelled upwards of fourteen hundred miles over different parts of England, just at the time the farmers were gathering in the harvest. We had all suffered so much during the winter, from the apprehensions of absolute famine, that the state of the crops became an interesting object of inquiry to every one. Their favourable appearance was a subject of general congratulation; and although they did not thresh out so plentifully as was expected, yet they were got in without damage and at little expence, and

which a plentiful stock of wheat (which is stored under ground, and preserved for years without damage) is in general deposited. The air of this part of the country is rendered unhealthy from the vapours

were on the whole very fair crops. Barley and oats were more than usually abundant. But not only wheat is at an enormous price, but oats and barley, butcher's meat, and every individual necessary of life. It really is a consideration of most serious concern, and something must be done to check the progress of this alarming evil. If provisions continue to increase in price, or even if they do not materially diminish, the poor cannot possibly subsist without a proportional increase of wages, which will have an immediate effect on the rates of our manufactures, and will ultimately be felt by the whole commerce of the country. Pursue this hypothesis; keep on increasing; and consider where the mischief will terminate*. 1796.

* Since the above note was written, we have learnt in what a small degree the scarcity was real, and by what delusions and mal-practices, the price was so exorbitantly kept up. 1798.

It is a melancholy reflection, that two years ago, in consequence of a partial failure in the preceding harvest, the same arts were resorted to, and with even better success. I hope, however, it has been for the last time, and that posterity will read with astonishment, that, in the month of March 1801, wheat was sold in Mark Lane at the enormous rate of 11. 1s. 6d. per bushel. 1803.

which rise from the marshes, and is said, amongst other evils, to occasion the gout, a complaint with which the inhabitants are much troubled. In London, people contrive to get this infirmity, without the assistance of the atmosphere. But I must not think of those guzzling gormandizing feasts, where eating and drinking are the sole enjoyment and occupation; and where the charms of conversation, and the graces of conviviality, are lost in the stupifying clamours of riotous excess. Formerly these marshes almost entirely surrounded the town, and added considerably to its strength; but many of them have, of late years, been filled up, and converted into gardens. The suburbs are considerable, and a great many wind-mills, used for different purposes, have been erected in the environs.

Whilst at Constantinople, we had neglected to apply to Sir Robert Ainslie for a passport, a paper which, although unknown with us*, is very essential to tra-

* This is not the case now, and it is not much to the honour of those, who have the management of

vellers in most foreign countries. This omission might have been the occasion of much trouble and delay, had it not been for the politeness and civility of general Rahl, the governor of the town.

We had, whilst at Tour Rouge, mentioned this affair to monsieur Maltus, who gave us a letter of recommendation to a friend of his, that enjoyed some post under the governor.

Anxious to get our business expedited, as soon as we arrived at Hermanstadt, we waited on this gentleman, and delivered our letter. It was a sultry day, and we

this department, that such an exorbitant sum as three guineas should be exacted, before permission to leave one's own country can be obtained. I am sure this was not the intention of parliament, when the bill passed. I never but once paid any thing for a passport on the continent, and that was at Paris, at the time the king was on his trial. The price however was not three guineas, but two shillings. 1796.

General Andreossi, however, practising a generosity of which we should have set him the example, delivers passports gratis. I am sorry I should be obliged to draw even a single comparison, in which the French government appears superior to our own. 1803.

found him sitting, without his coat, under a tent pitched in his garden. He received us very ceremoniously, and appeared to be rather disconcerted at our surprising him in such complete dishabille. When he was made acquainted with the purport of our errand, he said he should be extremely happy to serve us, and offered to attend us to the governor's the following morning; but we told him how much we were pressed for time, and urged him so forcibly to go that day, that we in the end overcame his repugnance. He first put on his coat, then his cocked hat, and lastly his sword; and, thus formally equipped, sallied forth. The walk was rather long, which, added to his corpulency and the heat of the weather, made him pant so unmercifully, that I quite pitied him, and almost regretted having dragged him from the indolence of repose, which he seemed to be enjoying so much, whilst reclining in the shade of his tent. When we got to the governor's house, he only stopped to introduce us, and then hurried back to his

rural retreat. The general gave us a very polite reception, and, on being informed of the circumstances of our situation, not only furnished us with every thing that was necessary, but pressed us to dine with him the following day, which, however, notwithstanding the civility with which the invitation was urged, we had the self-denial to decline.

In the evening we went to the theatre, where we were much amused, for a play is, at all times, an entertainment I delight in, and it had, in this instance, the additional recommendation of novelty. The actors and actresses were tolerably decent, and the theatre, which was spacious, and handsomely fitted up, was well filled with company. Whilst we were there, an Hungarian officer entered into conversation with us, and was very inquisitive about England, which, he said, he intended to take an early opportunity of visiting. This acquaintance proved, in one respect, useful to us; for, when the play was over, it rained so violently, that we were at a loss

how to return home. He immediately offered his assistance, and, sheltered by his cloak and umbrella, we all three contrived to reach the inn, without getting wet, where, after thanking him for his kindness, we wished each other good night, and separated.

Transylvania is a part of the ancient Dacia, which so long resisted the efforts of the Roman arms. It has natural boundaries, being, on almost every side, encompassed with lofty mountains. It contains upwards of one million of inhabitants, and, if its natural advantages and resources were carried to that extent of improvement of which they are capable, it might be rendered a most valuable possession. The climate is on the whole healthy, and the soil fruitful, and it is intersected by numerous rivers, which produce an abundance of fish, and facilitate the operations of commerce. The inhabitants have always been of a turbulent and warlike disposition, and their country has undergone numberless revolutions. Since the treaty of Carlowitz

in 1699*, it has been annexed to the patrimonial dominions of the house of Austria. The principal branches of the revenue are the contributions, the custom and excise duties, the mines, the royal domains, and the tythes levied on the Saxons. But the expences of the government are very heavy, and the clear income drawn from the possession is trifling. The feudal system still obtains. The aristocracy is almost independent, and the peasantry is in a state of abject vassalage. Where these wide and unjust distinctions exist between the rich and the poor, neither the one nor the other can be happy. They must live in perpetual distrust and enmity. The rich must be always fearful of losing that authority, which they have acquired by force or by accident, and which they have no just right to retain: the poor, feeling the weight of their indigence and their chains,

* This treaty was concluded on the 26th of January, the conferences having lasted upwards of two months. For the particulars of it, see l'Histoire de l'Empire Ottoman, par Mignot, tom iv. p. 18.

must be always seeking for an opportunity of redressing their wrongs, and of relieving themselves from the yoke of their oppressors.

The commerce, such as it is, is chiefly in the hands of the Armenians and Greeks. The natives, being divided into two distinct classes, the one is too proud, and the other too abject, to engage in such pursuits. No manufactures, but those of the coarsest description, exist; and the shopkeepers, who find it their interest to administer to the desires and luxuries of the opulent, are obliged to resort to other countries to supply the deficiencies of their own. The exports consist of its natural productions, such as, horses, oxen, sheep, salt, wine, wool, tobacco, and honey; its imports embrace the artificial productions of the neighbouring states, and the shopkeepers go to Vienna, and even to the Leipsic fairs, to make their purchases.

The principal products of Transylvania are, salt, cattle, corn, and wine, and the

mountains abound with rich mines of various kinds of metals *. The country is naturally fertile; but it is not like those parts of Europe where civilization and commerce have excited an universal spirit of enterprize, ingenuity, and industry; and where the happiness is increasing with the wealth and population of the state. Agriculture and the arts have yet much to accomplish; and you may, in some districts, travel for miles, and have only to lament how little has been done to assist the efforts of Nature.

We left Hermanstadt on the first of July, immediately after breakfast, and, a few stages beyond it, passed through Mühlenbach, which is a walled town, pleasantly situated on a river of the same name. The land around it is fruitful in pastu-

* The principal salt-pits are at Thorda, Clausenburg, Sek, Deschakna, and Paraid. They are inexhaustible. The workmen are only paid for blocks which weigh upwards of eighty pounds; and, in these large masses, above a million quintals or fifty thousand tons are annually drawn from the mines.

rage and wine, and abounds in all kinds of game. Szasz-Varos is an antient town, with a castle inclosed by a double wall; but I have heard of nothing remarkable in its history.

Deva, which lies on the banks of the Marosch, is supposed to have been the antient Decidava, and it is pretended by many, that Decebalus, the last Dacian king, lies buried there. It is not a place of much consequence now, though, for its size, it is populous. The country, in the neighbourhood is mountainous and picturesque, and produces fine timber and excellent wine. The woods are well stocked with game and wild fowl of every description; but the favourite diversion of the Hungarians, who are great sportsmen, is the chase of the wild boar, a pursuit which, if the pleasure is commensurate with the danger, must be highly captivating. The river Marosch, which we frequently saw from the road, enlivened and embellished the prospect, particularly so at the time we were passing, being covered with rafts,

loaded with various commodities, which were descending the river to different parts of Hungary.

About seven years ago, this part of Transylvania was overrun and ravaged by a banditti, who committed every kind of excess and depredation. They pillaged and burnt the houses of the nobility, and declared they would never lay down their arms, till they had emancipated their country from the horrours of vassalage: a noble object, had it been the only one, and followed up with firmness united with moderation. They amounted to upwards of twelve thousand in number, and were so formidable, both on account of their fierceness and their unanimity, that a considerable length of time expired, before the vigilance and activity of the military could disperse them.

From Deva the road runs nearly in a straight line to Dobra, which is a village with a small citadel, and the last place we came to, before we entered the Banat. The extensive tract we passed through between

Tour Rouge and the frontiers of the Banat, is inhabited by Saxons, Walachians, Hungarians, and Germans, who are all allowed the free exercise of their religion. The Saxons are by far the most numerous. They were first induced to settle there, by the invitation and advantageous offers of Geysa II. who granted them many valuable privileges which they have been allowed to retain. They have also preserved their national manners and customs, to which they are peculiarly attached, and they even pride themselves on the distinction of dress which is totally different from that of the original inhabitants.

We arrived at Temeswar* on the 3d, about nine o'clock in the morning, where

* Temeswar was built by the ancient kings of Hungary, and has sustained several obstinate sieges. It was taken in 1551, by Achomatus, whom Solyman the Magnificent had sent as his lieutenant into Europe. See Knolles's Turkish Hist. vol. i. p. 511. In 1716, it was retaken by prince Eugene of Savoy, for the emperor Charles VI. after a siege of ten weeks. See l'Histoire de l'Empire Ottoman, par Mignot, tom. iv. p. 225.

we stopped but a few hours. The country from Deva is fertile, and tolerably well cultivated; and, as it approaches Temeswar, is chiefly employed in the growth of grain. This city, which is the capital of the Banat, stands on an extensive plain that is watered by the river Temes. It is defended on every side by strong fortifications, which are kept in excellent repair, and, next to Peterwardein, it is the strongest place in this part of the emperor's dominions. The Turks were in uninterrupted possession of it for 164 years. In 1716 it was taken from them by prince Eugene of Savoy, and by the treaty of Passarowitz*, which was signed two years after, the sovereignty of it was confirmed to the house of Austria. Since that period almost the whole of the present town has been built. It is populous and of considerable extent. The streets are wide, regular, and well

* By the treaty of Passarowitz, in 1718, the whole of Hungary and Sclavonia was secured to the house of Austria.

paved; the squares spacious; and a few of the public edifices, particularly the town-hall and the catholic cathedral, are specimens of architecture beyond what one commonly meets with in Hungary. The fortress, or burgh, is the only remaining part of the antient town, and its existence may be traced very far back in the annals of the country. It is a square castle with a tower at each angle, and its walls being nine feet thick, it may last for ages to come. There are, at present, three gates to the town, which are shut every night. That at which prince Eugene made his entrance has, for some reason or other, been blocked up; but the square brick tower remains to interest the curiosity of strangers. Some of the moschs that were left by the Turks have been converted into Christian churches, and the Greeks and Jews, who are numerous, have each their public place of devotion. The walk on the ramparts encircles the town, but, not being planted with trees, is not remarkably pleasant. A garrison of 14,000 men is necessary for its

defence, and the barracks for the soldiers are convenient and spacious. The suburbs, which are separated about a quarter of a mile from the town, are of considerable extent, and are inhabited chiefly by Germans and Walachians. The air of this place, from the low and swampy lands which surround it, is extremely unhealthy, and, in the summer months, generally occasions an epidemic fever which proves very fatal to strangers. Great sums of money have been expended by the government in experiments to drain these marshes; but, although the atmosphere has been rendered less prejudicial than formerly, they have proved hitherto, in great measure, ineffectual. The canal of Bega, which is cut from the Temes, and, at the distance of four leagues, falls into the Danube, was begun by order of Maria Theresa. It is a truly imperial work, for it is not only of essential service to the commercial interests of the inhabitants, but also, by means of pipes and pumps, supplies the whole city with water.

I cannot close this account of Temeswar without relating to you a story from its domestic annals, which is, even to this day, a topic of conversation, and which, from its extraordinary nature, if it were not completely authenticated, might justly be regarded as fabulous. It will be read with a mixture of horrour and admiration, as it furnishes, on one side, as striking an instance of barbarous ingenuity, and, on the other, of heroic fortitude, as any recorded in history.

In the year 1514, there was, in the neighbourhood of this town, a most alarming insurrection of the peasants, which, after raging for some time with the fiercest fury, was, at last, suppressed by the exertion and zeal of John Zapolia, waywode of Transylvania. Their leader, George Doscha, who, a few days before, had been proclaimed king, was made prisoner with a number of his adherents, and, in this town, was sentenced to expiate his rebellion by the following dreadful punishment. Forty of the chief confederates were thrown into prison, where they were confined for

several days, without receiving any sustenance. In the mean time, as tokens of mockery and contempt, a throne, a crown, and a sceptre, of iron were forged. As soon as finished, they were all put into a furnace, where they remained till they were red hot. They were then taken out, and Doscha being brought forward, and, undressed, was seated on the throne, the crown was placed on his head, and the sceptre in his right hand. When he was half roasted, nine of his famished companions, all who had survived their sufferings in prison, were let loose on him, in the expectation that they would immediately devour him. Of these, three were stubborn, and, absolutely refusing to touch him, were immediately dispatched by the executioner: the others tore and mangled him in a horrible manner, and were allowed to escape. During these agonies no sigh, or groan, or tear, escaped him, and his only exclamation was, "I have brought up hounds to devour me." Saying this, he gave up the ghost.

From Temeswar we proceeded to Ka-

nischa, a few miles beyond which, we crossed the Theys in a ferry-boat. The borders of this river are extremely pleasant, being ornamented with woods, and rich pasturages, which afford nourishment to numerous flocks of sheep.

Shortly after passing the Theys, we arrived at Segedin, which is situated on the banks of that river, immediately opposite the mouth of the Marosch. It stands in a well-chosen situation, on a rising ground, in an extensive plain, and, although it has declined from its former consequence, is still a large and populous town. Many of the houses are substantial buildings; but the streets, being unpaved, have an irregular appearance, and are excessively dirty. The fortress, which is separated from the town, possesses a commanding aspect, overlooking the river, and is surrounded by a wall and ditch. Wine is grown, but in no considerable quantity, in the neighbourhood, and a great deal of fine cattle is bred on the pasturages. The town is well supplied with provisions, particularly with fish

and water-fowl, which the river and morasses furnish in great abundance. The market for cattle is among the first in Hungary. The Hungarians are employed in agriculture; and the Germans and Greeks, who form no small portion of the inhabitants, are engaged in a confined commerce.

The next place of any consequence we came to was Ketschkemet, which is situated about half way between Segedin and Buda, and stands on one of the most extensive heaths in Europe, stretching out, in different directions, about fifty German miles. Although it presents to the traveller a miserable appearance, from its barrenness of trees and houses, yet it is by no means useless, the finest oxen and horses in Hungary being bred on different districts of it. Ketschkemet is a large town, with a numerous population, but dull, straggling, and dirty. The inhabitants, who are chiefly Hungarians, occupy themselves in the cultivation of the land, and the breeding of cattle.

Before we reached Buda, we passed through several other places, of which I

have nothing interesting to relate. What principally attracted my notice, and afforded me the greatest pleasure, was the surprising neatness of the villages. All the houses are white-washed, and uniformly built; and every tenant has a small plat of ground, which separates his house from his neighbour's. This was a scene which I truly enjoyed; for I survey, with much purer delight, the comforts of the poor, than the magnificence of the rich. Magnificence is confined to a few, which few it does not in reality make happier, and, when once seen, is seldom worth seeing a second time. But comfort gladdens and warms the heart wherever it is found: it is the animating spring of social life, and, in proportion as it is diffused, is our satisfaction, in beholding it, lively and sincere.

Although the prospect is, at intervals, varied, it mostly consists of extensive tracts, covered with different kinds of grain, which article forms one of the principal branches of commerce of the kingdom. We sometimes rode through corn-fields, for several

miles together, and, as the farmers were gathering in the harvest, the scene which they presented was particularly beautiful and interesting. The crops this year are abundant; and I contemplated, with the most lively satisfaction, that glow of cheerfulness and contentment which animated the countenance of the peasant, and which seemed to express his gratitude to Nature, for the recompence which she had bestowed on his honest and useful labours.

About nine o'clock this morning we entered Buda.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXV.

Vienna, July 8, 1792.

BUDA is the capital of Lower Hungary, and is the largest and most populous city in the kingdom. It is pleasantly situated, on a rising ground, on the western banks of the Danube, and is surrounded by a fruitful country, which produces excellent grain, and wine of the finest flavour.

It is a place of high antiquity. The old town was a Roman station, known under the name of Sicambria, of which the coins and other relicks, that have been dug up, furnish an abundance of proof. An extensive chain of ruins, consisting of massive columns, covered with a thick calcareous substance, which have, by some,

been supposed to have been an aqueduct, and by others a wall, ascertain, at least very nearly, the site of the antient town. A sudarium has also been lately discovered of considerable dimensions, the floor of which is supported by upwards of two hundred small stone pillars.

In the year 401, the terrible Attila pitched his camp in the neighbourhood*, and, when pressing forward, in pursuit of the fugitive Romans, entrusted the town to the care of his brother Buda, to whom it is indebted for its present name. Few cities have experienced severer misfortunes, or more sudden and total revolutions. It has been ravaged by the Tartars, Bulgarians, and its native princes. Its population has been, several times, nearly exterminated by the plague, and its houses

* Jazberin, a place about thirty-six miles to the east of Buda, is generally supposed to have been the spot, where stood the rude, but royal, residence of Attila and his invincible followers, and where, under the reign of Theodosius, he received, with barbaric pomp, the humble ambassadors of the Roman empire.—See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. vi. p. 76.

nearly destroyed by fire; and, for almost two centuries, it was a constant object of fierce and bloody contention between the Christians and Turks. In that space of time it suffered several obstinate sieges, which, in addition to the evils inflicted by the exasperation of the opposing parties, were aggravated by the accumulated sufferings of conflagration, pestilence, and famine.

After the dreadful battle of Mohatz, which was fought between the Turks and Hungarians in the year 1526, in which the young and gallant Lewis, with 18,000 of his best subjects, perished, the more fortunate Solyman directed his course towards Buda, and took possession of it without opposition. The incensed and revengeful Turk only remained there fourteen days, which were diligently employed in affording proofs of his vindictive spirit, by the destruction of the principal buildings, the churches, and the palace. But what is most to be regretted is the loss of the royal library, which had been founded by Mathias

Corvinus, and contained upwards of 50,000 manuscripts that had been collected, and placed there, by the munificence of that celebrated patron of learning. The following year Buda fell into the hands of the archduke Ferdinand, the competitor for the crown against John Zapolia, whose cause Solyman espoused, and, in 1529, retaking the town, placed him on the throne. The haughty sultan having effected his purpose, immediately returned, carrying with him 10,000 Christians into captivity. Zapolia dying in 1540, the succeeding year, his widow Isabella was obliged to remit Buda into the hands of the Turks, who kept an uninterrupted possession of it till the year 1686. It suffered from the Christians, during that period, six sieges, which proved all ineffectual. The day of retribution, however, at last arrived, and, on the second of September in the above year, the emperor Leopold's forces, amounting to 95,000 men, under the command of the duke of Lorraine, after a vigourous attack of near three

months, during which the Turks made a stout and valiant defence, secured it for their master. By the peace of Carlowitz, in 1699, it was finally ceded to the house of Austria; but the Turks were so irritated against their government at the loss of this important place, that it cost Mahomet IV. his crown.

Buda is at present divided into three parts, viz. the lower town, the Rascian town, and the fortress. The lower town stretches, for a considerable distance, along the banks of the Danube. The streets are narrow, straggling, and dirty; and the houses, which have a miserable appearance, are tenanted chiefly by Jews. The Rascian town possesses a much more agreeable situation, standing on a hill; but it is nearly as dirty and as badly built. It is of considerable extent and very populous; and its inhabitants, who are Germans and Illyrians, employ themselves in traffic of various kinds. Almost all the public edifices, and private dwelling-houses, of any note, are within the walls of the fortress, which

stands on the summit of a lofty mountain, and commands a grand and extensive view of the town, the river, the opposite town of Pest, the immense plains of Ketschkemet, and the distant mountains of Hungary. The streets are regular, tolerably paved and lighted, and many of the houses are handsomely and substantially built, with spacious court-yards before them. The natural strength, which the fortress possesses from its position, has been much improved by art. The fortifications are extensive, and, in many parts, are of massive stone. They are kept in good repair, and the walk on the ramparts, towards the river, is remarkably pleasant.

The government was removed from Presburg to Buda in the year 1784, which, of course, procured to the town a great accession of opulent families, to which it is considerably indebted for its present flourishing state. The inhabitants, out of gratitude to their benefactor, expressed a wish to erect a statue to the emperor for such a signal mark of his favour, which drew

from him his well-known and well-merited rebuke.

The palace, which is the usual residence of the palatine, is a grand edifice. It is a spacious and regular piece of architecture, and some of the apartments are adorned with good pictures, and are elegantly fitted up in the French taste. One of the towers of this palace has been raised, and made into an observatory, which is provided with a tolerable collection of mathematical and optical instruments. The regalia are also preserved here with religious care, deposited in a vault, and secluded from every eye. They consist of a crown, a sceptre, a robe, and a pair of stockings, said to be the same which were worn by St. Stephen on the day of his coronation. The people entertain the strongest prejudices concerning these relicks. Guardians are appointed to watch over their security, and, by the law of the land, they cannot be transported beyond the frontiers*. The seals are ex-

* In the year 1784, when the government was removed from Presburg, the regalia, which had always

amined once a year, and, when the king is crowned at Presburg, they are removed under a strong escort, and opened in the presence of the keepers. The coronation of the emperor, as king of Hungary, took place in this city but a few days before our arrival; so that, had it not been for our unfortunate detention at Tour Rouge, we should have been present at this splendid and solemn ceremony.

There is an university at Buda, with a rich foundation, and a numerous list of professors; but learning may be said to be in its infancy in every part of Hungary. The inhabitants are not yet sufficiently polished and refined, much to relish the elegant pursuits of the understanding, nor do they cultivate, with any zeal, those improvements which the arts and sciences uniformly introduce, and which, whilst

been preserved there, were carried to Vienna; but so much clamour was excited by this act, that Joseph's successor judged it prudent to restore them to the wishes of his Hungarian subjects.

they embellish, add to the usefulness and the comforts of life.

The theatre, which is a spacious stone edifice, and well fitted up with decorations in the modern style, was formerly a Carmelite church, and was converted to its present purpose by Joseph II. who suppressed the order. Plays are acted there, at this season of the year, every alternate night. We were present at one of the representations, and, although we did not understand the language, were tolerably entertained, being well acquainted with the subject, which was the death of Mary queen of Scots. All the celebrated personages, connected with that melancholy event, were introduced on the stage; and we could not help laughing at the grotesque figures which personated the sage Elizabeth, the elegant Leicester, the accomplished Norfolk, and the beautiful Mary. The conclusion was truly tragical; for, in order to excite a compassion, which would not certainly have been raised by the personal charms

and graces of her representative, the unfortunate Scottish queen, by means of a juggling apparatus, was beheaded on the stage. The contrivance was this. The neck was placed on a block, in which there was a groove, and an axe was suspended over it. When the axe fell, the neck slipped through the groove, and let the head down into a basket, which, had it been neatly managed, would have been no bad deception; but, unfortunately, from some blunder of the mechanist, the axe, as it was descending, twirled round two or three times, and missed its aim. This accident was not, however, allowed to retard the catastrophe, for the head nevertheless performed its part, and found its way into the basket. How foreign to good taste are these bloody scenes! They are, indeed, one of the chief reproaches of some of the finest pieces of our own stage, which, in other respects, can boast of so many unrivalled perfections.

Buda has long been celebrated for its baths, which are supplied with water of an

astonishing natural heat, and are so efficacious in gouty and rheumatic complaints, that patients resort, from all parts of the kingdom, to take the benefit of them. There are several, in different parts of the town, but the largest and best are those which were left by the Turks, who soon applied the hot springs, with which the earth abounds, to the use of a favourite indulgence. They are not, indeed, remarkable for their elegance. Even the private baths have no very enticing appearance; and the public one exhibits a scene far too disgusting for description.

Opposite Buda, on the eastern side of the Danube, stands Pest, which, though not so large, is a much handsomer, city. It is also a very antient place, and has experienced nearly the same fate as Buda, having generally fallen with it, or shortly after. These two cities are united by a substantial wooden bridge, which reposes on forty pontoons, fastened to each other by strong iron chains, and is about a quarter of a mile in length. In the month of No-

vember, it is usually removed, and replaced in the spring, during which interval, when the river is not frozen, the intercourse between the towns is kept up by boats that ply for hire. The situation of Pest is quite level; its form is quadrangular; and the streets, which intersect each other at right angles, are wide, uniform, and well paved. Many of the houses are of very large dimensions, and built of polished stone, diffusing an air of grandeur and neatness through the town, which, particularly in Hungary, is very striking.

Among the public edifices, which are not very numerous, the most remarkable is the hospital for invalids, which was erected by the emperor Charles VI. and was one of the most splendid institutions of the kind in Europe. It is an immense square stone structure, capable of accommodating from fifteen hundred to two thousand invalids, and, including the women, children, and attendants in the different departments, the total number of its inhabitants has sometimes amounted

to five thousand. It was liberally provided with every thing that could contribute to the comfort or convenience of its tenants; and, if we may believe the reports that are made of it, nothing could surpass the excellence of its arrangements, or the facility and order, with which it was, throughout every branch, conducted. But, it is no longer applied to its original purpose, and, at present, serves as barracks for the garrison of the town.

The library is a spacious hall, containing about 30,000 volumes. It is under very good regulations, and the public, by having free access to it at all seasons, reaps every advantage that can result from similar establishments. There are also public schools, a cabinet of natural philophy enriched with excellent models, and a museum containing a valuable collection of minerals. In the skirts of the town, to the north, an immense edifice presents itself, which was begun by Joseph II. and is variously reported to have been intended as caserns for his soldiers, or a bastile for his

rebellious subjects; but, whatever his plan was, it terminated with his life.

All the fashionable people, who are not in an official capacity, reside at Pest, as well as the opulent shopkeepers who display a variety of rich merchandize, which gives it an air of gaiety and bustle in which Buda is very deficient. The public walk, which is near the river, is planted with trees, and, in fine weather, thronged with company, who assemble, as in other places, for the double motive of exercise and curiosity. The coffee-houses are much frequented, especially at night. They are numerous; but one in particular, which faces the bridge, may be remarked for its superior elegance, and for being built on a scale of magnitude which is hardly to be equalled in Europe. It is crowded every evening with people of all descriptions, who go there to chat, to smoke, to drink coffee, or play at billiards; or else, as I did, to be a spectator of this busy and diversified scene. The few news-

papers, which are tolerated in Hungary, are to be met with here; but the Hungarians are not suffered to be politicians. It is provided with three full-sized billiard tables, and there is a fourth in an adjoining room. This is a game of which the Hungarians are very fond, and at which they are very expert; but almost every person having a pipe in his mouth, players as well as lookers-on, one's eyes and nose must be accustomed to the fumes of smoke with which the atmosphere is polluted to be able to remain among them long. There are two or three adjoining apartments, where, if you are not particular about your company or your table cloth, you may have a good dinner or supper at a moderate price.

The theatre is not on an equality with the rest of the town, being a small wooden erection, which is little better than a Bartholomew-fair booth. It is, however, I believe only intended to serve a temporary purpose, and something on a grander scale is said to be in contemplation.

There are four fairs held annually at Pest, each lasting eight days, of which that in the month of November is by far the most considerable. Cattle is the principal article; and, for the accommodation of the shopkeepers who flock from Vienna, Bohemia, and other parts, temporary booths are erected. The markets are well supplied, and provisions are abundant and cheap, particularly fish, fowl, fruit, and vegetables.

The plain of Räkosch, so celebrated in the days of the elective monarchy for being the theatre where the States used to assemble, in arms and on horseback, to execute the solemn right of choosing their king, is not above four miles from Pest. Ninety thousand people have pitched their tents on this ground to assist at the august ceremony; but, since the fatal battle of Mohatz, this usage has been discontinued. The Hungarian nobles still venerate the spot, as it recalls to memory those proud days of tumultuous freedom, in which they

had the privilege of aspiring to, or bestowing, a crown *.

Yours, &c.

* In former times diets were frequently held in Pest; and, in 1308, Charles I. was chosen king in this town.

LETTER XXVI.

Vienna, July 10, 1792.

In my last letter I left off rather abruptly. I shall now give you the continuation of my journey to Vienna. As we had not been in bed since we left Hermanstadt, we were glad to avail ourselves of the opportunity of repose, which an inn, that in Hungary might be called comfortable, afforded. We therefore passed the night at Buda, and, the following morning, set off for Presburg, where we arrived pretty early in the day on the 7th.

The road from Buda to Komorn is sandy, but remarkably level, and intersects a beautiful and productive plain, which is ornamented and fertilized by the Danube, and is, at present, enriched by the golden prospect of an abundant harvest. This plain

has often exhibited a very opposite view. During the long wars between the Turks and Germans, it was the scene of many a hard-fought battle, and experienced all the horrours of bloodshed, and miseries of desolation. From these fatal contentions the population of Hungary has never recovered; for, although the ravages on the human race are soon repaired, in a country where marriage and industry are properly encouraged; where freedom and commerce flourish; and where the life of a citizen is considered as an additional blessing and support to the state; yet, without these incentives, if it do not decrease, it at most remains stationary, and a war, a plague, or a famine, inflicts a loss which is felt for ages.

Komorn is large, well-built, and populous, and situated in a pleasant country on the south-east corner of the island of Schut, on the spot where the branches of the Danube unite. The fortress, which stands on the angle towards the river, was formerly the pride of Hungary, from the

rare fortune it has experienced of having never been taken. What, however, the efforts of no human enemy could accomplish, has been twice nearly effected by two dreadful earthquakes, that happened in the years 1763 and 1783, which shook the town to its very centre, and overthrew a considerable part of the fortifications *. Among the many attacks this city has sustained, that in the year 1594, when the Turks besieged it with a numerous army and a large fleet of ships, is the most remarkable. The pacha Sinan, who had the command of the Ottoman forces, wearied out with the duration and obstinacy of the siege, at last endeavoured to corrupt the governor, and sent into the town, under a flag of truce, five Turks, with the offer of a considerable bribe if he would deliver up the place. But the Hungarian proved faithful to his trust, and was so incensed at the insult which had been offered to his

* The fortifications were afterwards nearly demolished by order of Joseph II.

honour, that he ordered the heads of four of the messengers to be cut off, and, fixing them on spears, displayed them on the ramparts. The fifth he sent back to announce to his master the fate of his companions, and to inform him that his offer was rejected with scorn. This decisive conduct so intimidated the Turks, that they shortly after raised the siege *.

The inhabitants, who are Hungarians and Germans, carry on a considerable traffic in the productions of the circumjacent country, which are, corn, wine, wood, honey, and wax. The post-house, for the accommodation of travellers, is on the opposite side of the water, with which a communication is kept up by a flying bridge.

The next town of consequence we came to was Raab, which stands on the river of the same name, just where it forms a junction with the Danube. It possesses an agreeable situation, which is much adorned by the windings of the two rivers,

* See Knolles's Turkish History, vol. i. p. 734.

and was formerly a place of great strength. The streets are regular, the houses substantial, and the market-place spacious. The castle is at present the residence of the bishop. The cathedral is an old edifice worth looking into on account of its internal decorations. The walk on the ramparts is pleasant, and the principal inn tolerable. The native inhabitants employ themselves in the cultivation of their lands; and the Greeks, who are numerous, carry on a traffic in Turkish cotton and wool, which come down the Danube, and which they forward to Vienna.

The Turks, previous to their attack on Komorn, invested Raab, which was betrayed into their hands by count Hardek, who commanded the garrison. He endeavoured to justify himself to the archduke, but his treachery having been already fully revealed by one of the party concerned, he and his accomplices were executed at Vienna a few months after *.

* See l'Hist. de l'Emp. Ottoman par Mignot, tom. ii. p. 255.—Raab remained in the hands of the

The road between Buda and Presburg is excellent, and intersects a rich and well cultivated country, abounding in grain, wine, wood, and fine pasturages, which present a variety of elegant and luxuriant landscapes.

Presburg, which, whilst Buda and other parts of Hungary were in possession of the Turks, was the seat of the government and the metropolis of the kingdom, is only regarded now as the capital of Upper Hungary. It lies half way between Raab and Vienna, and is delightfully situated on a rising ground on the banks of the Danube, which, opposite the town, is upwards of six hundred feet broad. It is, at present, only surrounded by a ditch. The squares are spacious, the streets wide, regular, and well paved, and the houses are solidly built. Although it has considerably de-

Turks till the year 1598, when it was retaken, by surprise, by the counts Schwartzenberg and Palfy; since which time it has continued in possession of the Austrians.

clined since the year 1784, when the public offices were transferred to Buda, the beauty of the neighbouring country, the salubrity of the air, and, above all, its proximity to Vienna, have detained among its inhabitants many powerful and opulent nobles, who still give it an air of life and gaiety not altogether unworthy of its former consequence.

The collegiate church, in which many kings have been crowned, is a large stone Gothic structure with a high tower, roofed with copper. It contains the ashes of several archbishops and nobles, and, in one of the chapels, which is richly embellished with marble, a prince Esterhazy has the satisfaction of lying in a silver coffin with crystal sides.

The castle, which was formerly strongly fortified, stands on a lofty eminence, overlooking the town, and commanding a charming view of the surrounding country and the river, whose rapid waters are divided into different channels by several

enchanting islands. This castle was once the residence of the sovereigns of Hungary, and, till within these few years, was inhabited by the late viceroy duke Albert and his consort the archduchess Christiana, who embellished it at an immense expence, and held a splendid court there. Since then it has been stripped of all its costly furniture, and converted into a general seminary for the clergy; and you may have some idea of its extent when I inform you that it is the actual residence of near a thousand students. The spacious vaults below, where many a state criminal has, in days of yore, lingered out a miserable existence, the humanity and conviviality of better times have changed into a repository for wine.

The theatre is an insulated building, commodiously and handsomely fitted up, and, during the carnival, is turned into a spacious saloon, where maskerades are given two or three times a week. The other principal edifices are the archbishop's palace, the town hall, and the barracks,

which were erected at a great expence. The magazines for corn, and the dyke to prevent the overflowing of the river, are also worth noticing.

The population of Presburg amounts to 25,000 souls, among whom the number of Lutherans is so considerable, that half the magistracy is elected from their body. Four annual fairs are holden at Presburg, but the trade of the town is not proportioned to its extent and population. There are no manufactures of consequence, and the inhabitants employ themselves as shopkeepers, and in dispatching vessels to Vienna that come down the Danube. The communication between the town and the opposite shore of the river, is kept up by a flying bridge, nearly similar to that at Komorn, but on a larger scale, being capable of carrying over, at once, several hundred people, beside carriages, horses, oxen, and sheep. These bridges, although they have not the convenience of those that are fixed, are, for a moveable structure, on the best plan of any I have seen. They

consist of a spacious flat deck railed round, which reposes on two large barges; and, to prevent their being carried down the river with the stream, they are fastened by a cable to a long chain of boats, all having a lateral movement except the farthest which is strongly secured by anchors, and serves as a centre for the rest to turn on. The mere impulse of the current is all that is necessary to drive the bridge to and fro, and which, in consequence of its rapidity, is effected with considerable expedition.

We took an early dinner at Presburg, and, after a delightful ride, chiefly on the borders of the Danube, we entered the metropolis of the German empire, a little before midnight.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, and our repeated assurances, that our trunks contained nothing but wearing apparel, we were obliged to drive to the custom-house, and to remain there a considerable time, which was employed in the strict examination of every article of

our baggage. The officers, when they had finished, had the impudence to ask us for money, which, you may be sure, after the unnecessary trouble they had occasioned, we were not in a humour to bestow; and I must own, I felt some little satisfaction in disappointing the rapaciousness of these modern harpies.

Hungary * is, on the whole, a very fine country. The climate is good, and the soil fertile. It produces wine, corn, and all kinds of vegetables, in abundance, and in great perfection. Game and wild fowl are plentiful, and the breed of oxen, horses, and sheep, is much esteemed. In the mountains there are rich and extensive mines of gold, silver, lead, and other metals; and the salt mines are highly productive and valuable.

* Hungary has been successively occupied by three Scythian colonies: 1. The Huns of Attila. 2. The Avares in the 6th century. 3. The Turks or Magiars, the immediate and genuine ancestors of the modern Hungarians, whose connexion with the two former is extremely faint and remote.—See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. vi. p. 38.

The revenue which the emperor derives from Hungary, is estimated at 18,000,000 of florins, about 1,800,000 sterling, which arises chiefly from the mines, particularly the salt mines; the contribution, a kind of poll-tax levied on the peasantry; the royal domains; and the duties on cattle, wine, corn, and other productions of the country. When we consider the extent, fertility, and population, of Hungary, this sum does not appear very considerable; and, indeed, I have been assured that it is little more than sufficient to defray the charges of garrisons and fortifications, civil and military officers, and other requisite expences of the government.

The Hungarians are a handsome, well-formed, hardy race of men. They are excellent soldiers, and can raise above one hundred thousand fighting men. They are indolent, proud, and revengeful; but generous, hospitable, and brave; fond of horses, hunting, and good cheer; and have a great aversion from commerce and mechanics; a prejudice which prevails, more

or less, in every country, and affords a striking proof of the fallacy of human judgment, which affixes a higher degree of respect to the turbulent pursuits of a military life than to the tranquil and useful occupations of peace. Their dress is becoming, and peculiarly adapted to set off the shape to the best advantage. It consists of a fur cap with a high plume of feathers, a close vest, and a loose jacket trimmed with fur and richly embroidered, with pantaloons and half-boots, which are so common, that many a gentleman has passed his life, without having ever had a pair of shoes on his feet. None but the nobles are permitted to wear swords, a privilege which every one, who has a right to it, asserts. They shave their beards, except the upper lip, which is generally adorned with a pair of huge whiskers. Many of the peasants also wear pantaloons and half-boots, with a vest, and a long robe of sheep-skin, with the wool on, reaching down to their heels. The rich live in idleness, luxury, and pomp; the poor are

employed in agriculture or menial service; and the trade of the kingdom is carried on chiefly by foreigners. The women are handsome, well shaped, and of a fair complexion; and their dress, which bears a close affinity to that of the Grecian ladies, is elegant and fantastic. During the winter, both the men and women guard against the inclemencies of the weather, by clothing themselves in furs, and heating their rooms with stoves.

I cannot quit my account of this long journey, without noticing the bad regulations, which both the post-masters and post-horses are under, on the road from Hermanstadt to Buda. At every place where we stopped, the horses were out at grass, and we were always detained an hour or two before we could proceed. There are, indeed, so few travellers in this country, that the only method of avoiding delay is to dispatch a courier the day before, to announce the expected time of your arrival. Several of the post-masters were extremely uncivil, and the only uniform

which, in many parts, distinguished the postillions, was a coarse dirty shirt and a pair of ragged trowsers. These two articles composed the whole of their dress, and perhaps the whole of their wardrobe. It must be allowed, that an equipment of this nature cannot be very costly ; yet, to prove how far economy may be carried, the shirt was never long enough to tuck into the trowsers, so that, in windy weather, however great might be the modesty of the man, he could not possibly conceal the colour of his naked back. The accommodations at the inns were, in general, far from being inviting, and we seldom could get any thing to eat unless we waited two or three hours; for, when there was any stock on hand, which was rarely the case, it was not only to cook but to kill.

On the road from Buda to Vienna, matters were much better managed, and we were more comfortable in every respect. At the different stages we generally found the horses in the stable, and were seldom detained at the post-house above

twenty minutes or half an hour, which was such a considerable improvement, that, by the force of comparison, we were induced to consider it as a near approach to expedition.

Yours, &c.

HUNGARIAN REFERENCE

LETTER XXVII.

Vienna, July 19, 1792.

COMPARED with London, Paris, and Constantinople, Vienna is not a large city; yet it is as large as, perhaps, in sound policy, any city should be. An overgrown metropolis is always a disadvantage to a country, in every point of view. It drains it of its wealth, its provisions, and its population; and is the source of dissipation, corruption, and crimes.

Vienna is agreeably situated, standing on a fruitful plain, which is watered by the Danube and several smaller rivers. It is the capital of the Austrian dominions, and the usual residence of the emperor, who is, at present, at Frankfort, where his coronation is shortly to take place. Within the walls, which are not quite three miles

in circumference, it is very confined. The houses, which are chiefly plastered and white-washed, are substantially built, and the streets, though narrow, are regular and well paved. At night they are lighted and watched, and passengers may walk out, at all hours, with the greatest security. Three of the squares are decorated with gaudy monuments, which have been raised, on different occasions, at a great expence.

Vienna has a gay and busy appearance. The streets are crowded with people, who flock in from the suburbs; and such is the concourse of strangers, that you frequently have an opportunity of seeing the habits and manners of almost every nation in Europe congregated on the same spot. Provisions are plentiful and cheap, but lodgings are expensive, from the insufficiency of the houses for the accommodation of the inhabitants. They are very high, and a different family occupies every floor.

Including the suburbs, the population

of Vienna is computed to amount to two hundred and ten thousand souls. It is not ornamented with many splendid public edifices, nor are the houses of individuals distinguished, in their outward appearance, for any thing but their neatness. The churches, though numerous, are by no means remarkable for elegance of architecture, or richness of decoration. That which is most admired, within the walls, is the cathedral of St. Stephen, which is a fine Gothic structure, with a steeple remarkable for its symmetry and its height. The interior is divided into three naves, of which the lateral ones are supported by thirty-eight columns curiously carved. The principal altar is very magnificent, and the other ones, which are numerous, are all enriched with marble, and adorned with statues and pictures. It is ornamented, both within and without, with a great many statues and other pieces of sculpture, and contains some fine monuments, amongst which those of the emperor Frederick IV. and prince Eugene are the most costly in

materials, and the most beautiful in workmanship. The churches of the Jesuits, the Cordeliers, and the Capuchins, are also worth seeing, particularly the latter, which is the place where the princes and princesses of the house of Austria are interred in an immense subterraneous vault, and several noble mausoleums of marble, bronze, and tin, are erected to their memory. They are all of an oblong form, adorned with trophies, figures, and inscriptions, and, though very expensive, are by no means remarkable for elegance of design, or dexterity of execution. In a few of the churches there are some good pictures.

The palace of the emperor little bespeaks the residence of the first prince in Christendom. It forms two sides of a quadrangle, and is an extensive building; but the walls, which are plastered, are much out of repair, and so abominably dirty, that its appearance is (if possible) more shabby and deplorable than that of our St. James's.

There are places, however, belonging

to the emperor, which fully compensate for the want of a sumptuous palace: and the magnificence of the imperial library, the arsenal, and the museums of coins and minerals, cannot well be surpassed. The great hall of the library is in the form of a cross. The domes and ceiling are adorned with paintings, representing the arts, and are supported by pillars in imitation of variegated marble. Under the centre dome is erected a fine statue, in white marble, of the emperor Charles VI. who was the founder of this noble edifice; and seventeen marble statues of the princes of the house of Austria, interspersed with antique busts (among which there is a remarkably fine one of Pyrrhus), are ranged round the hall. Those parts of the walls which are seen, are incrusted with marble; and a gallery, at a proper height, surrounds the hall. The number of volumes amounts to above three hundred thousand, besides manuscripts, of which there is a large and valuable collection. They are of every language, and

treat of every art and science, which has been investigated by the learning, or embellished by the genius, of the human mind. They are all elegantly bound, and exhibit the finest specimens of the typographic art from its invention to the present time. Among the rarest printed books are to be seen, a psalter in folio, on parchment, dated 1457*, and a bible in two volumes folio, 1462, both printed at Mentz by John Fust and Peter Schoiffher; another bible, in two volumes, without a date, for which cardinal Mazarine offered twenty thousand livres; a Pliny at Venice in 1469 by John Spira; and a Dante at Florence by Landino, with eighteen engravings on copper, of which the three first are originals, and the earliest experiments of the kind.

The manuscripts are arranged in two separate rooms, and their number surpasses twelve thousand. The volume of Peruvian Hieroglyphics is very remarkable, and contains the most curious collection extant.

* This work is in red and black letters, and the first that was ever printed with a date.

It was seized by the Spaniards, when they first invaded that part of America, and has been particularly alluded to by Robertson in his history of that country. The symbols are, if possible, more whimsical than those of the Egyptians, and the colours are still very lively, owing perhaps to some preservative quality in the substance on which they are laid, which I was assured was human skin. They have, besides, among their curiosities, a Dioscorides of the eighth century, the fifth decad of Livy, Tasso's Jerusalem written with his own hand, and many scarce and beautiful oriental manuscripts. The map, known by the title of the Tabula Peutingeriana, so called from the name of the copist, is transcribed from the celebrated itinerary ordered by Theodosius the Great, and executed in 393. This copy, which was made in the twelfth century, is the most antient map at present known to exist, and contains a complete delineation of the Roman world. It is drawn on a roll of parchment, not above a foot wide, but of a great length, the countries being repre-

sented in regular succession, without any regard to their relative situations. But the greatest rarity of which this library can boast, is the original senatus-consultum, forbidding bacchanals, which passed in the year of Rome 568. It is of cast metal, and the letters are very roughly executed.

Among the modern productions of art, the most ingenious is an orrery, constructed according to the Copernican system, and regulated in its movements by clock-work. Every part of it is made with the greatest exactness, and the planets perform their various revolutions with the most precise accuracy. It was the work of an unlettered German carpenter, called Nesstfell, who presented it to the emperor Francis I. and received a pension for his ingenuity.

Several curious antient inscriptions are stuck in the wall of the staircase; and, in the landing place at bottom, are some antient sarcophagi. One of them is very superior to the rest. It was brought from the neighbourhood of Ephesus by John of Austria, the natural son of Charles V. and

is adorned in front with a beautiful bass relief, representing the battle of Theseus with the Amazons.

Such are some of the valuable materials of which this magnificent library is composed; and to render it as much as possible of general utility, it is open to the public, for several hours, every day in the week, sundays and holidays excepted.

The arsenal is a spacious square building, and contains arms for four hundred thousand men, besides the collection of antient weapons, which is very extensive. They are arranged with such surprising skill, that the devices, although formed with instruments which were invented to excite terrour, and diffuse desolation, only remind us of the mildness and ingenuity of the softer arts. Besides these devices, which are varied almost without end, there are pyramids, pillars, trophies, and fortifications, which are perfectly represented by the dexterous disposal of guns, pistols, spears, swords, and other warlike weapons. Those arms, which do not contribute to

the ornamental part, are concealed in cones, which, from their outward dimensions, no one would suspect to be the repositories of such immense stores. We were shewn, the armours of Godfrey of Bouillon, Mathias Corvinus, Frederic I. Barbarossa, and the emperor Charles V. with the sword which he usually wore; the leathern jacket and the hat (both pierced with bullets) which the great Gustavus Adolphus had on, when he was killed at the battle of Lutzen; and the helmet of prince Eugene, together with the hat and sword, which were presented to him by pope Clement II. for the decisive victory he gained, in 1716, near Peterwardein, over the Turks.

In another room are ostentatiously displayed the trophies that have been taken from the different countries, with which the Austrians have waged war. Of French and Turkish there is an abundant stock, and I felt a kind of national pride, when I was told, that they could not boast of a single one wrested from the English.

In the court-yard are two curious cannons* of an immense size, two gigantic mortars, and an iron chain, that were all taken from the Turks. The chain, which is twelve hundred feet long, is suspended, in festoons, round the walls which enclose the yard, and each link weighs from twenty-two to twenty-four pounds. It was formerly made use of by the Turks to block up the passage of the Danube near Buda.

The museums of coins and minerals are in a division of the palace adjoining the apartments which are inhabited by the imperial family. The former contains a most extensive and valuable collection of antique gems, and antient and modern medals and coins. Among the gems are many of distinguished value, but there is one which, from its superiority to all the others, deserves a particular description. It is a cameo, engraved on a sardonyx, representing the apotheosis of Augustus.

* The largest of these cannons, which was cast at Belgrade, is twenty-four feet long, and will carry 124 pound of ball.

The emperor and his consort, Germanicus and Agrippina, Tiberius, and several others, form the group; and whether we consider the merits of the composition, the beauty of the design, or the skill displayed in the execution, it is perhaps the most valuable specimen of this branch of antient art that has been preserved. The history of this remarkable gem is also curious. It was obtained in Palestine, towards the commencement of the fourteenth century, by some knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who, on their return to France, presented it to their sovereign Philip the Handsome. The king, at his death, left it in a legacy to the convent of Poissi *. In the civil wars it was stolen, and carried into Germany by some merchants, who sold it to Rudolphus II. for twelve thousand ducats.

The number of antient medals amounts

* Poissi is a little town on the Seine, about five leagues from Paris, celebrated for the birth of St. Louis. Philip the Handsome built the church and convent of Dominican nuns in honour of his grandfather.

to 22,000, divided into four great classes, and the cabinet of modern medals and coins is the completest in Europe. It was begun by Francis I. and comprehends an assortment of every piece of money coined in every country, in gold, silver, copper, or brass, from the time of Charlemagne to the present day. Many of these are very rare, and in a high state of preservation, and others are remarkable for their beauty.

The museum of natural history, contains a rich and valuable collection of minerals, fossils, spars, petrifactions, marbles, opals, shells, metals, and volcanic productions. One of the opals is of the astonishing weight of seventeen ounces; and the marble mosaic pictures, which were all executed at Florence, exhibit some of the finest specimens of that elegant and ingenious art.

The treasure of the crown, which strangers may see every friday, is also contiguous to the palace, and although many of the richest articles have lately been removed, its contents are still of

inestimable value. They consist of clocks in ivory and alabaster, vases, tables, and cabinets in porphyry, agate, and lapis lazuli, snuff boxes and rings, robes of state, crowns, swords, sceptres, stars, and other ornamental appendages of regal state. The observatory is provided with an admirable collection of instruments, many of which have been sent from England.

The gallery of pictures belonging to prince Lichtenstein is the finest in Vienna, and consists of several spacious apartments, which are enriched with the works of Raphael, Guido, Rubens, Van Dyke, and other celebrated masters. Over the doors of one of the rooms are two paintings, in imitation of bass-reliefs, which are universally admired, and which are so happily expressed, that they must, I think, at first sight, deceive the eye of the minutest critic. There is also an old man's head, which is a late production, and executed with such consummate skill, that the more closely you examine it, the more

natural it appears. I looked at it for several minutes through a glass, and could scarcely persuade myself that it was an inanimate object. In addition to the pictures, the apartments are adorned with statues, groups, busts, vases, and bronzes.

The university is a handsome edifice, built by Francis I. and Maria Theresa. It was originally founded by the emperor Frederick II. and is a noble institution. Physic, surgery, theology, natural philosophy, history, civil and canon law, painting and sculpture, are taught by the different professors. The anatomical theatre, the laboratory, and the observatory, belonging to this university, are extremely well worth seeing. There is, besides, an academy for architecture, sculpture, painting, and engraving; the Normal school; an oriental academy; a school for deaf and dumb; a commercial academy; and a school for ladies, instituted chiefly with a view of forming proper instructors for the female sex.

Among the places of public amusement,

two of the theatres may be remarked for their elegance; but, at present, both the actors and actresses are very indifferent. German and Italian operas and plays are represented alternately, and the admission being moderate, they are well attended.

The fortifications of Vienna, though not to be compared with many others in Europe, furnish a respectable defence against the attack of a foreign foe, and have several times been the means of securing its independence. It has sustained six different sieges, of which the two last are the most memorable. They were both from the hands of the Turks. The first was of short duration, although it was undertaken by an illustrious and successful monarch, aided by an immense army. Solyman the Magnificent appeared before the city in September 1529, but, after three weeks of fruitless efforts, was obliged to abandon it with disgrace. In 1683 its situation was more precarious, and it would certainly have fallen into the hands of the enemy had it not been for the fortunate

arrival of the heroic John Sobieski, king of Poland, who completely routed the infidels, and obliged them precipitately to retreat*. Since then the strength of the fortifications has not been put to a trial; but they continue to be considered of high importance, and are kept in excellent repair. The walk on the ramparts is pleasant, and planted with trees.

The suburbs occupy much more ground than the city, from which they are separated by an esplanade of about three hundred paces, where no buildings are allowed to be erected. They are twelve in number, and communicate with it through nine gates. They are handsomely built, contain many objects which are highly interesting to the curiosity of strangers, and are the residence of several of the principal families of Vienna.

Among the churches, that of St. Charles of Borromeo is by far the handsomest. It

* For the particulars of these two memorable sieges, see Knolles's Turkish Hist. vol. i. p. 411, and sir Paul Rycaut's Hist. of the Turks, p. 103.

was erected by the emperor Charles VI. in consequence of a vow he made in 1713, when his capital was desolated by a plague. It is in a good style of architecture, and stands alone on a rising ground, so that it is seen from many parts of the city. The porch is supported by six Corinthian pillars, and, on each side, detached from the building, stands a large Doric column, on which are sculptured the deeds of the saint. The interior is richly ornamented with marbles and pictures, and the principal dome has been painted by an able artist.

Belvedere is the name of a palace belonging to the emperor. It was built by prince Eugene of Savoy, and was, for many years, the residence of that illustrious hero. It is a vast structure, and although defective in architectural taste, bespeaks the consequence of its actual possessor. The situation is delightful, commanding a view of the town, the river, the villages, and the distant country. In the time of Maria Theresa, the imperial gallery of pictures was removed from Vienna to this palace.

It is a numerous collection, and although not proportionably select, is enriched by many valuable works from the pencils of the most eminent masters, particularly of the Italian and Flemish schools. There is also, on the second floor, a large and curious assemblage of antient pictures of the Flemish and German schools, which can boast of some of the earliest productions after the invention of painting in oil*. The apartments are lofty and spacious, and the pictures, which are admirably arranged, are all splendidly framed. The great portico is adorned with statues and busts, and the gardens, belonging to the palace, are extensive and well laid out.

The emperor has another agreeable pa-

* This discovery is generally attributed to John Van Eyck of Bruges, towards the close of the fourteenth century; though Mr. Horace Walpole produces very satisfactory proof that it was practised in England long before that period. From Bruges, however, it was carried into Italy about forty years after, where it was assiduously cultivated; and, by the beginning of the sixteenth century, had reached its highest perfection.

lace called Schönbrun, at the distance of a few miles from his capital. This was also a favourite residence of Maria Theresa, and is delightfully situated, commanding, on one side, a view of the suburbs, and on the other, of the hills of Hungary. The building is extensive but in bad taste, and the furniture is rich but heavy and old fashioned. The gardens, which are very spacious, have been laid out with considerable skill, and have been ornamented, at an immense expence, with alleys, grottoes, ruins, fountains, and cascades. There is also a large lake with a fine group in the centre; and the erection called the *Gloriette* is a lofty terrace with a grand colonnade, from which there are several beautiful views. In a distant part of these gardens there is a menagery of foreign birds and beasts; and the collection of exotic plants, which is contained in fourteen roomy hot-houses, is, after that at Kew, the finest in the world.

The general hospital for the relief of the sick is the largest edifice in Vienna,

and is capable of accommodating two thousand patients. It is in a healthy and airy situation, well ventilated, and provided with every convenience which the wants and infirmities of its inhabitants can require. It is under very good regulations, and each person, whilst he remains there, pays a moderate sum, which is appropriated to the support of the institution.

The hospital for lunatics is situated at no great distance from the above. It was built by Joseph II. and is arranged for the reception of two hundred and fifty patients. Its form is circular. Both men and women are admitted, and it is divided into apartments which are allotted to the different stages of the disease. There are many other infirmaries and charitable institutions in the suburbs, but these two are the most remarkable.

The china manufactory is on a very grand scale; and the exertions of those who have the direction of it, have brought it to a high state of perfection. It employs four hundred workmen. The building is di-

vided into different departments, where every branch of the art is carried on from the brute clay to the last finish. The mass is not so fine as that of Dresden, but it is distinguished for elegance of form, chasteness of design, and liveliness of colouring. They have generally a considerable stock on shew, and services have been sold from this manufactory for the astonishing sum of 1600l.

The most frequented public walks, in the vicinity of the city, are the Prater and the Augarten. They are both delightful places in a different way. The former is the gayest spot near Vienna. It exhibits a scene something similar to our Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens united; and, although not to be compared with them, for a display of beautiful women, fine horses, and splendid equipages, surpasses them very much in the animation of the scene. It was formerly confined to the higher ranks, but is now open, at all seasons, to the public, and is resorted to by every description of people. It is planted

with majestic trees, among which are dispersed innumerable little wooden buildings tastily ornamented, with benches and tables before them, where coffee, ices, and other refreshments, may be had. Every kind of sport is, at the same time, going on, such as dancing, singing, music, skittles, whirligigs, eating and drinking, in all which the inhabitants of Vienna take peculiar delight. A wide and well kept road separates the two sides of the Prater, where the fashionables of Vienna parade in their carriages and on horseback. I know of no place so well calculated to give a stranger a true idea of the character of the natives, for he has an opportunity of seeing assembled on one spot every class, pursuing, without restraint, their favourite pastimes; the rich displaying their pomp, and the poor forgetting their poverty. In the retired parts of this wood are enclosures where game is preserved, and where deer and wild-boars are in great abundance.

The Augarten is almost a continuation of the Prater, but it is enclosed, and,

by no means, so varied or extensive. One extremity is bounded by the Danube, and it is planted with beautiful trees, and laid out with great judgment. It was formerly the site of a palace, in which the grand vizir Kara Mustapha, who commanded the Ottoman army that besieged Vienna in 1683, took up his residence. The emperor Joseph converted it into a place of recreation for his subjects, and it is provided with two elegant halls, where dinners and refreshments may be had at a reasonable price.

Besides these sources of amusement, there are three theatres, which are opened in the summer season, and contribute to enliven the suburbs. Low comedies and farces are represented in them, in which there is always a harlequin and a buffoon, whose coarse jokes and vulgar wit are highly relished by the spectators.

There is one place more which I cannot avoid mentioning. This is the amphitheatre, where, in imitation of the antients, combats of wild beasts, and

bull-fights, are exhibited on Sundays and holidays. Curiosity prompted me to go there once, but I confess that I received no gratification. It is a wooden building of a circular form, and without a roof. The boxes and galleries, where the spectators sit, are ranged in rows one above the other, and the lowest is raised considerably above the arena, round which are the dens where the different animals are kept. The commencement of this spectacle presented a strange scene of confusion. A wolf, a bear, a wild boar, a fox, and a monkey, were turned out together. The monkey, being the wisest of the five, soon thought fit to run up a pole, which stands in the centre of the arena, to secure himself from the danger which awaited him below. The wild boar, after some deliberation, made an attack on the bear, which was very violent, but did not last long; for, as the bear was retreating from the dreadful tusks of his adversary, he fell backwards into a small pool of water, about two feet deep, where he thought proper to

remain to cool himself, whilst his enemy was grinning at him on the borders. The poor wolf and fox were hunted by dogs, and were terribly galled. This conflict being over, several bulls were brought forth and baited; after which a man entered on horseback, armed with a spear, with which he attacked one of them. But he was more than his match: and, after wounding him several times, when the poor animal was quite faint with loss of blood, he leaped from his horse, and, seizing him by the horns, ran a long knife into his brain. The beast instantly fell, and expired; and was carried off amidst the acclamations of the spectators. Several other bulls were afterwards encountered by dogs; and, to render them more furious, they were not only goaded by the keepers, but a couple of cats, tied together by a string, were slung across the back of each. The last animal that was exhibited was a byson, and about a dozen large dogs, with jackets round their bodies to protect them from his horns, set on him at once. But he was so fierce

and outrageous, that he soon disabled, or frightened, them all. His eyes flashed with fire; every muscle of his body was in action; and he tossed them one after the other, over and over, till they were at last so disheartened, that they would no longer renew the attack. I am told that, now and then, a fine lion is produced, but that, on this occasion, the keepers always expect to lose at least one of their best dogs. This noble and intrepid animal, when his opponents, which are numerous, approach him, does not seem to give himself much concern; but the moment one comes within his reach, he stretches out his paw, and secures him. He then places his foot on his neck, and holds him down till he has strangled him. At intervals, he lifts up his foot, but, whilst there are any signs of life, he always puts it down again, determined to have his revenge*.

* This amphitheatre has been since burnt to the ground, and the government, glad of so good an opportunity to suppress it, has not permitted it to be rebuilt. Of all the animals it contained, the byson

I have been particular in my account of this spectacle, because it is to be met with in very few of the modern states of Europe. It is, in fact, a barbarous diversion, and might, I think, in this refined age, be dispensed with. It has, however, its advocates in this city; and I was surprised to see it so well attended, especially by the fair sex, who were certainly never designed to be the spectators of these bloody sports. Perhaps they do not consider, that what is at first viewed with disgust or emotion, custom, by degrees, will frequently reconcile us to; and that if once we allow ourselves to be familiarized with the sufferings of the brute creation, we have already applied the ax to the root of sensibility, and im-

was the only one that escaped. He owed his safety to his superior strength. When he felt the heat, he burst open the door of his stall, and, getting into the suburbs, after terrifying the inhabitants for some time, was at last secured in a house. Out of gratitude for past services, he is now allowed to lead a life of repose, and to graze in a paddock adjoining the gardens of Schönbrun.

perceptibly become callous to the afflictions of our own species.

The day after our arrival we paid our respects to our ambassador Sir Robert Murray Keith, and have been at his house several times since. He is a most agreeable man, and so attentive to his countrymen, that he is quite beloved by all the English who visit this city.

There are few places in Europe where time can be spent more pleasantly than at Vienna; the Germans being a liberal, sincere, and hospitable people. A letter of recommendation to the minister of your country, or to any person of fashion, secures an introduction to the most polite circles, and every mark of attention, civility, and respect, is eagerly heaped on strangers. But this is not the season for seeing the society of Vienna to advantage. The court is at Frankfort attending on the emperor, and most of the opulent families are at their country seats. Prince Kaunitz gives a dress assembly once a week, but it is thinly attended; and, as we purposed

staying so short a time, we did not think it worth while to be introduced. The men are civil, ceremonious, and silent. The women are easy, affable, and communicative. They are not, however, distinguished for their beauty, and they endeavour to conceal the unkindness of nature under the artificial ornaments of dress; but which, by being carried to an extravagant excess, only render their imperfections more glaring. Like the French, they manage the business of gallantry quite systematically. By mutual consent, husband and wife lay aside all notions of jealousy, and all scruples of conscience, and, without restraint or diffimulation, follow their favourite pursuits.

This total indifference for each other, which on the continent is so prevalent with married people, is to me, as I hope it may ever remain, quite incomprehensible. I cannot help sometimes imagining that, in these countries, mankind is compounded of materials, and endowed with propensities and ideas, totally dis-

tinct, both in their principle and operation, from those which prevail in Old England. To a well-regulated mind, or to a soul of any feeling whatever, marriage must constitute the felicity or the torment of life; and, of all connexions, it seems to be that which admits least of a state of torpid insensibility. It may, no doubt, in many instances, be productive of misery; but when it is founded on mutual love and respect, arising from a correspondence of talent, of sentiment, of disposition, of pursuit, it is the most tender, the most sacred, the most intimate, the most endearing, of all human ties. It is the bond which encircles our parents, our children, our friends; which connects us with the great mass of society; and which calls into action the most important, as well as the most pleasing, duties of our nature. It is an union which blunts the edge of sorrow; which tranquillizes the turbulence of passion; which renders more exquisitely susceptible every faculty of enjoyment; and which spreads a secret and

irresistible charm over every period of our existence. These are the ideas which we entertain of marriage in England; and so long as they firmly preserve their ground, so long shall we retain our pre-eminence in the scale of nations. For I am convinced that private virtue is the only solid basis of public happiness and prosperity; and that the religion, the morality, and the freedom of a state, derive, in no small degree, both their origin and protection, from the purity of domestic life.

If the Germans have been justly accused of dullness and phlegm; if they have seldom ventured to explore the realms of genius and fancy; still their virtues and their abilities are sufficient to render them an agreeable and respectable people. If they have not produced so many great poets, or original authors, as England or France, yet they can boast of some, whose talents have been rarely surpassed, and of whom any country might be proud. To that indefatigable diligence and profound erudition, by which they have so eminently

distinguished themselves, we are also indebted for several of the most valuable editions of the classics, and for the elucidation of many intricate and important points, which might otherwise, to this day, have remained in obscurity. They have a great talent for mechanics; are fond of music, horses, splendid equipages, and good cheer; and are, generally speaking, honest and industrious. As soldiers they are surpassed by none. They are trained up, from their infancy, to the severest discipline, and possess that steady and patient courage which encounters, without hesitation, the most perilous difficulties, and bears, without murmuring, hardships the most revolting.

Like the climates and soils, the dispositions of nations vary. One is distinguished for genius, another for judgment; one for courage, another for pusillanimity; one for industry, another for idleness; in short, every nation, like individuals, is characterised by some predominant feature; but, as with individuals also, that

people is not entitled to our respect, however renowned for talents, unless they also possess the good qualities of the heart; unless the inclination to serve mankind unite with the power; unless their virtues shine with a degree of energy and effulgence, sufficient to disperse those clouds of vice, which, at intervals, hover over every community, and which threaten the existence of whatever commands our veneration, or is entitled to our esteem.

We have now been here ten days, and have seen every thing which this city affords to gratify the curiosity of strangers. In the course of another week, we purpose setting off for Venice, whence we shall make our intended tour of Italy.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

Buda, September 2, 1799.

On the 28th of last month, I left Vienna for Hungary, in company with a gentleman of my own name. The long journey I undertook, about seven years ago, through this country, though performed with too much rapidity for minute inquiry or observation, and at a very early period of life, had still, however, contributed to awaken my curiosity concerning this little known, but highly interesting, part of Europe.

We set off at an early hour in the morning, that we might be able to reach Esterhazy in the afternoon, time enough to see it; and, the weather proving favourable and the road excellent, our design was easily accomplished.

Till we passed the Austrian frontier we paid turnpikes, at stated distances, as in

England; but, when once in Hungary, the character of gentlemen, travelling post, secured us from these interruptions. We found the country level and fertile, but bare of wood, and chiefly employed in the growth of Indian maize, which, on account of its having been introduced from Turkey, is here called Turkish wheat. Near Œdenburg, an old, dirty, but populous town, where we stopped for half an hour, there are extensive vineyards. The breed of cattle, particularly oxen and sheep, is much attended to. The oxen are of a bulky stature, with large horns, and are all of a dusky white colour. The sheep have spiral horns, growing almost perpendicularly from the forehead, and their fleeces are long and thick.

The prince Esterhazy is the most wealthy and powerful nobleman in Hungary, and his vast estates reach, with very little interruption, from the frontiers of Austria, almost to the borders of Transylvania. His palace is a spacious mansion, solidly built of brick which is plastered and whitewashed; but very little taste is displayed

in the architecture. The situation of it is far from eligible, as the surrounding country is flat and naked, and the principal object is the Neusiedler lake, which has an immense circuit, but stagnant waters, and banks that are totally unadorned. The inside, however, gives one a better opinion of the taste and judgment of its founder. It is handsomely furnished, and some of the apartments have a magnificent and striking appearance. There is a tolerable library, a small collection of minerals, fossils, and other curiosities, both of nature and art; but the picture gallery I can, without hesitation, pronounce to be the most miserable I ever beheld. The offices, which are numerous, are on a scale with the palace, and proportioned to the crowd of attendants that was formerly in the train of the prince. The gardens, which are of great extent, and have been laid out at an enormous expence, are quite in the old style, consisting of formal parterres, straight rows of trees, and shrubs which are strangely disfigured by the shears. Vases and statues,

but not of the description where the workmanship surpasses in value the materials, summer-houses and temples, fountains and cascades, and other gimcrack embellishments, have been interspersed with infinitely more prodigality than judgment, and make one lament the misapplication of so much money and labour. It seems singular that men should have been conducted to the knowlege of true taste by a deviation from nature (the very principle on which it is founded), and through channels so distantly removed from the object of their researches. In the early and untaught ages of society, the mind delights in the wild, the vast, the terrific: as refinement and civilization advance, it contracts the unbounded range of an unfettered imagination, and, occupied by other conceptions, and engaged in other pursuits, it feels the impressions, and appreciates the conveniencies of art. The rude elements of invention, in their origin, strangely disfigure the bold originality of nature, till at last, by frequent experiments, the just coincidence is

discovered, and they are each made to obey, and embellish, the other.

The late prince, who erected this palace, and created, in a manner, the place, passed a great part of the year here, and lived in a style of magnificence which few subjects have surpassed. He retained a troop of comedians in his pay, gave operas and other expensive entertainments, and maintained a guard (a privilege which, as a subject, belongs exclusively to himself) of two hundred soldiers. The present prince, although his rental amounts to 100,000 l. sterling (in this country a more than royal income) from the prodigalities of his father, and his own indiscretions and mismanagement, is so embarrassed in his circumstances, that he has lately been obliged to put his affairs into the hands of trustees, who have, very wisely, appropriated the greatest part of it to the liquidation of his debts. Till this laudable object is effected, he has consented to retrench his expences in every department, and lives in a comparatively obscure manner, chiefly at Vienna, or

on his estate at Eisenstadt. This place has consequently been neglected, and exhibits, at present, a dreary picture of faded splendour. The proud privilege of maintaining a guard, is however still preserved, and the garrison is represented by a single man in a tattered uniform, who is posted the whole day long at the gate, freezing in winter, and scorching in summer, with nobody to salute but his highness's major domo, who, nevertheless, seems proud of the distinction. We sauntered about the grounds till we were completely tired of their insipidity, and returned to the inn, which is at a small distance, where we passed the night.

The following morning we were at an early hour in our carriage, and the goodness of the road to Wieselburg made some amends for the dullness of the country. It is quite flat, neither enlivened by villages, farm-houses, nor even trees, and the large tracts of uncultivated land prove both the want of industry and population. I should have imagined we had

got into some desert part of the globe, had it not been that we now and then saw a shepherd tending his flock. Wieselburg is a small town on the banks of the Danube, with an old castle, and a manufactory of coarse cloth and flannel, which gives some occupation to the inhabitants. Before we arrived there, we got into the high road that leads from Presburg to Buda, and proceeded as far as Raab, where, finding a decent inn, we took up our quarters for the night. Of this town and the road hence to Buda, I have already, in a former part of my travels, given you a description.

The neatness of the villages, which had struck me so forcibly on my journey through Hungary seven years ago, was again an object of admiration; but, on entering the houses, I was sorry to discover that their charms were confined to their external appearance. Within, there was nothing like comfort. All was filth and dirt, and men, women, children, pigs, and cows, were huddled together, forming a motley and disgusting group. This is

perhaps the picturesque of savage life; but it is a scene of whose attractions civilized man can have no conception, and which he must always contemplate with compassion and regret.

The ordinary dress of the burghers and the higher class of peasantry, in this part of the country, consists of a light blue jacket and pantaloons, and huzzar boots with tassels and spurs. The jacket is edged with fur, and both jacket and pantaloons are embroidered down the seams. The poorer class is obliged to be satisfied with a short shirt and trowsers of coarse linen, the fabric of the country. As the weather grows cooler, they throw a rough blanket across their shoulders, and, in winter, clothe themselves with a sheep-skin garment, which reaches down to their heels, and which, according to the temperature of the atmosphere, they wear with the wool or skin next them. At night they convert it into a bed. They are tall, stout, and straight grown, but have heavy countenances, and their long black greasy hair

and huge whiskers give them the appearance of savages. The men wear round felt hats with broad rims and shallow crowns, and both men and women go without shoes and stockings. The women, who are not by any means so well-looked as the men, are kept in a state of slavish subordination, and are not only employed in domestic drudgery but in the laborious parts of agriculture, such as, digging, planting, and following the plough.

To travel in Hungary, with any degree of comfort, you must be provided with your own carriage, for those that are to be procured at the post-houses are common carts without covering or springs, and which seem constructed for the purpose of shaking you completely out of joint. It is also necessary, if you have no room for bedding, to carry with you your own sheets, and an additional one of sheep-skin, to cover the machine you meet with at the inns, which goes by the name of a bed, and which, even on the most frequented roads, is often disgustingly filthy. You are obliged to

take two, three, four, or six horses, according to the weight of your carriage or the number of persons it contains, though, to prevent grumbling and delay, even if your carriage be of the lightest kind, it is better to travel with four. They are small but lively, and are generally driven abreast by one man, who sits on the box, and annoys you the whole way with his pipe.

This being the season when the farmers begin to thresh out their corn, we had several opportunities of observing the manner in which they separate it from the chaff. Instead of making use of a flail, which is certainly one of the simplest instruments of husbandry, and, one should imagine, among the earliest inventions, they accomplish their purpose by scattering it on the ground, and driving five or six horses, backwards and forwards, over it. By this clumsy method, the straw is rendered almost useless, the seed is very much bruised, and no small portion of it remains in the husk. This alone is sufficient to give you an idea of the little progress they have

made in the science of agriculture, and the most obvious and useful branches of rural economy.

In most of the large towns there are ordinaries which are much resorted to, even by the better sort of people, where the landlord sits at the bottom of the table, and where you get a tolerable dinner at an easy rate, and plenty of dirt into the bargain. The wine to be purchased at the inns, even in this wine country, is uncommonly bad.

On our arrival at Buda, we drove immediately to the fortress, where there is a tolerable inn, and where, on account of the air and the view, we determined to remain. As I could not prevail on my friend to penetrate farther into Hungary, and as my firm resolve was not to go back to Vienna without visiting the Carpathian mountains, we only continued together a couple of days longer, which he required, to see the curiosities of the town. On my return from this Alpine excursion, it is my inten-

tion to make some residence here, so that whatever more I may have to communicate concerning this place, I shall reserve till then. For the present, Adieu.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

Buda, September 8, 1799.

As soon as my friend had taken his departure, and I found myself in a large town, without acquaintance, I waited on count Hadik, with a letter of introduction, with which count Palfy had favoured me, previous to my leaving Vienna. I was received with the greatest politeness; and the count, on hearing that I purposed undertaking a tour to the Carpathian mountains, proffered me every assistance in his power. He had fortunately performed the same journey a few years ago, so that he was enabled to furnish me with a great deal of local information which is likely to prove very useful, and he also had the kindness to promise me letters of introduction to some of the prin-

cipal people in almost every town I shall have occasion to visit.

The count, who is a man of understanding and wit, is also of considerable consequence in this country, being the eldest son of the celebrated general of that name, who, in the seven years war, laid Berlin under contribution. He was afterwards governor of Buda and war minister, and, in every situation he held, was not more respected for his talents than for the excellent qualities of his heart.

When I waited on the count the following morning, he was kind enough to propose accompanying me on a little excursion as far as Vissegrade, to which I readily consented; and, the day before yesterday, at an early hour, we set off.

Shortly after quitting Buda, we passed the mountain of Fifty Oxen, so called from a wager of fifty oxen, which was once laid between two butchers, that they would reach its summit on foot without stopping. One of them accomplished this arduous task, gained his bet, and died a few days after of fatigue. I have, in a former letter,

entered a little into the history of Buda, and you will readily recollect the long series of years it continued in the hands of the Ottomans. As we advanced, the tomb of the last pacha presented itself. It is a round tower, standing on an eminence, and was erected to his memory by the Turks. His country-seat, where he used to pass the summer months, was at no great distance from this spot. It must have been delightfully situated, but there is no vestige of it left. On the opposite side of the road rises the Kœnigsberg, the celebrated hill, to which the king, attended by his nobles, repairs after his coronation, and, flourishing his sword to the four quarters of the globe, declares that he will defend his country against every enemy that may assail it. We shortly after passed a small village called Grotten Dorf, in which originates the source of hot water that supplies the baths in the lower town of Buda; and, a few miles farther on, we came to St. Audré, a village entirely inhabited by Rascians, a race of

people which, in a subsequent letter, I shall probably have occasion to notice more particularly. After leaving this village, we soon came in sight of the castle of Vissegrade, the chief object of our expedition; and, as we approached it, had, in different directions, many beautiful views of it. The road runs, a great part of the way, on the banks of the Danube, which are peculiarly pictureſque, and the hills which bound it are adorned with vineyards, cornfields, and forests of oak.

On our arrival at the town of Vissegrade, we stopped at the house of one of the count's acquaintance, who received us with the greatest civility, and insisted on our remaining to dine with him. Whilst dinner was preparing, I went, attended by a guide, to see the castle. It was, for some centuries, a favourite summer residence of the Hungarian kings, and is now one of the most remarkable ruins in the country. Charles I. who resided there almost entirely, enlarged it, and fitted it up in a style of magnificence that was the wonder and

envy of his cotemporaries. In 1310, by his orders, the crown was removed to this castle, and, many years after, he received under his roof John king of Bohemia and his son, who was afterwards emperor, Casimir king of Poland, and Nemagna king of Bosnia and Servia, who, whilst on their visit, entered into a treaty of close alliance with him, and, after being entertained for several days, in a manner suitable to their rank, were dismissed with rich presents. The gardens, in those times, corresponded with the splendour of the castle. They were adorned with pleasure houses and statues and fountains of marble; and the park was stocked with every species of game. Among its many illustrious tenants was Mathias Corvinus, a king whose memory is, to this day, held, and deservedly so, in pious veneration by the Hungarians, and who may be justly ranked among the benefactors of mankind. He was a protector and encourager of letters, at a period when the realms of genius and science were nearly obscured; and, had it not been

for the glorious efforts, and fostering care, of a few such men, the sacred spark might have been completely extinguished. He used frequently to retire to this spot, to relieve himself from the weight of public affairs, and indulge in the pleasures of the chase. After the death of Lewis II. it was besieged and taken by the Turks, and the numerous misfortunes which afterwards befell it, at last reduced it to its present forlorn condition. It is still majestic in its ruins from its towering height, captivating from the romantic beauty of the scenery which surrounds it, and highly interesting from its past celebrity. The ascent is rugged and steep, and the path to this once noted resort of gaiety and pomp, is now so overgrown with briars and weeds, that, without a guide, it would be impossible to find one's way. How expressive are these changes of the reverses of human life, and I never witness them without being convinced of the frail reliance we ought to place on the duration of present enjoyment. About half way up, there is

a round stone structure called Salomon's Tower, from that king having been imprisoned there for eighteen months by his rival Ladislaus. The ruins of the castle are considerable, but none of the apartments remain entire, and it is falling fast to decay. The Hungarians, indeed, have given themselves but little pains to preserve, or elucidate, the antiquities of their country, nor, as far as I can learn, has any engraving ever been published of this very remarkable and interesting spot. The views from it are, in a high degree, beautiful and romantic. The windings of the Danube, the boldness and inequalities of the opposite shore, the pleasing mixture of wood and rock, vineyards and cornfields, bounded by distant hills, contribute to form a rich, a varied, and an enchanting landscape.

By the time I returned I felt very much fatigued, and was glad to find an excellent dinner which the hospitality of our landlord had prepared. Before we rose from table, the curate of the village called to pay

his respects to the count, and sat chatting, and drinking wine with us for above an hour. He was a fine-looking, cheerful, sensible old man, and seemed perfectly satisfied with his lot. The conversation was carried on chiefly in Latin, which the Hungarian gentry speak with great fluency, and some of them with classical elegance. It forms, indeed, a principal branch of their education, and is a necessary acquisition, as it is the language in which many of their law proceedings are still conducted.

Being desirous of returning to Buda that evening, we were obliged to break up a very agreeable party, and to take leave of our hospitable landlord. We crossed the river in a ferry-boat, and returned on the opposite banks. The country on this side is by no means so luxuriant and flourishing as that we had quitted. One of the principal objects that attracted my attention was a fine mansion, charmingly situated in the middle of a wood, that was erected by cardinal Migazzi, who was, for

many years, bishop of Watzen, and an illustrious patron of learning and the fine arts.

A few miles farther on we came to Watzen, which is a considerable place, and remarkable for containing the handsomest cathedral in Hungary. It was constructed by the above mentioned cardinal, who was a great benefactor to the town, and, by his numerous acts of munificence, contributed to efface the remembrance of its past misfortunes, and to lay the foundations of its present flourishing state. Watzen contains about eight thousand inhabitants, chiefly Germans and Greeks, who are engaged in various branches of commerce, particularly cattle and wine; and it is distinguished for its schools, and other public institutions. The cathedral stands on high ground, and presents itself to great advantage from the river. It is not a very large structure, but it is built according to the rules of architecture, and, in this country, which can boast of so few correct specimens of that elegant art, produces a

striking effect. The porch, to which you are conducted by a flight of steps, is well proportioned, and supported by ten columns of the composite order. The inside is also fitted up with elegance and taste. The gallery is upheld by pillars, the dome is adorned with paintings, and the five altars are enriched with marble and pictures. It is worth the trouble of mounting to the top, to enjoy the rich and extensive view that presents itself on every side. The bishop's palace and the residences of the subordinate clergy form two sides of a quadrangle, branching from the front of the church.

A few miles before we got to Buda, we crossed the plain of Rakosch where the kings of Hungary were formerly elected, and where upwards of ninety thousand armed horsemen, constituting the nobility of the country, have frequently assembled to execute that solemn right. This celebrated spot I have already noticed, but I viewed it a second time with additional interest. I felt, whilst I was beholding it, a mingled emotion of veneration and terrour:

veneration for that awful exercise of power which a people administers, when they place an equal on a throne; and terrour at the recollection of those violent heats and animosities of faction which such an exercise of power must inevitably create. A crown is, indeed, too great a prize to contend for; and nothing can prove more decisively the radical defects of an elective monarchy, than the scenes of bloodshed and confusion which that form of government, wherever it has prevailed, has uniformly produced. Every competition throws the kingdom into a convulsion, compared with which, no advantages to which it lays claim, can possibly make amends. Even supposing, what in a populous and extensive country can never be the case, that personal qualifications were the cause of elevation; yet it is not possible for the virtues of any one man to repair those mischiefs, which were occasioned by the very act that raised him to his office. And, if they could be repaired; at his death, the same factions

must revive; the same risks must be encountered; the same divisions must prevail. This, in fact, is one palpable reason why, in elective monarchies, learning, civilization, and the arts, have never made a rapid progress. Whilst the other countries of Europe, ackowledging hereditary right, were improving in every branch of polite and elegant literature, we find Hungary and Poland laid waste by civil discord, groaning under the yoke of feudal despotism, and delivered up as a prey to the passions of men, who were continually sacrificing public advantage to private ambition.

We got back to Buda by nine o'clock at night, and I was highly pleased both with my excursion and my companion.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXX.

Lomnitz, September 19, 1799.

EARLY in the morning, on the 10th of September, I left Buda for the mines and the Carpathian mountains, well provided with letters of recommendation and various notes, relating to those parts of Hungary I was about to visit, which had been supplied, or procured, by the friendly kindness of count Hadik. The season of the year was rather advanced for such an expedition, nor was the weather very favourable; but, having furnished myself with plenty of warm clothing, a light wicker carriage, and a servant who was acquainted with the language, all the inconveniences I had to encounter appeared to be disarmed of their terrours,

For the first ten or twelve miles, I found the country flat, bare, and uninteresting, with nothing to enliven the scenery except the prospect of Pest and Buda, from which I was fast retiring, and which was the only compensation for the sterility that presented itself from every other quarter. As we approached Bagh, which is the second stage, the country began to assume a more cheering aspect, and hills, clothed with woods of oak, and decorated with vineyards and hop-grounds, contributed to relieve the eye from the insipid landscape it had left behind. Near the village stands the country-seat of prince Graschalkowitz, who has a large landed property in this district. It is an immense edifice, but the situation has been very injudiciously chosen. Great attention is paid to the breed of cattle in this part of the country, and the oxen and sheep are remarkably fine; but the farmers are very slovenly in their modes of agriculture. The operation of winnowing their corn is as simple as the method I have already de-

scribed of threshing it. They assist themselves with no machinery, but throw it into the air, and let the wind work for them. Their idleness is inconceivable, and necessity is the only task-master that has a sufficient authority to compel them to make use of the faculties of animal existence. But this propensity seems to prevail in civilized as well as in savage life, and if it were not for those peremptory calls, to which our wants oblige us to listen, we should all, I believe, be rather lazily inclined.

We stopped at Hatwan to change horses. This was formerly a place of considerable note, but is of little consequence now. It is, however, pleasantly situated in the midst of immense meadows, famous for the breed of wild horses and the growth of water melons.

Gyongyosch, the next stage, has an appearance which approximates to the barbarousness of its appellation. It is dirty and straggling, and most of the houses are miserable huts. The country

round it is tolerably well cultivated, producing Indian corn, hemp, wine, and various kinds of fruit. The distant hills are covered with wood, and, in the vicinity, there are extensive mines of alum.

So far I had found the road very good. I now began to get into a hilly country; but the beauty of the scenery was an ample equivalent for a little relaxation of speed. On descending from my carriage at Kapolna, the post-master came to the door, and pressed me very much to walk in, when he presented me with some excellent fruit and tolerable wine; but on my offering to pay for them, he would on no account allow me. This was the first civility of the kind I had met with, and it occasioned some surprise. I have since discovered it is no uncommon mark of attention. These people are, indeed, frequently men of good family, but, being poor, are glad to avail themselves of the small profits annexed to so humble an office.

Being anxious to reach Erlau, I did not

tarry with him long, and pursued my journey with all possible expedition. But notwithstanding my exertions, I did not arrive till ten o'clock at night, and unfortunately the people at the inn were retired to rest. It required no gentle noise to rouse them; yet, had I been aware of the wretched accommodations that awaited me, I might as well have saved myself the trouble. A cold room without bed, table, or chair; not a scrap of any thing to eat; and a surly landlord: this was the agreeable prospect that terminated my first day's journey. After a good deal of entreaty, I did, however, procure a bundle of straw, with which I was obliged to content myself. The luxuries of my bed did not detain me long in the arms of sleep. I awoke betimes, and getting up the moment it was light, spent an hour, before breakfast, in rambling about the neighbourhood.

Immediately after breakfast I waited on Mr. Ösz, the prefect of the town, to whom I had a letter of introduction. I found him,

poor man, confined to his room, in a dreadful state of health, which did not, however, prevent him from receiving me with the greatest urbanity. He expressed his regret that he could be of so little service, and lamented very much that he was obliged to depute to another the pleasure he should have had in attending me round the town. His friend soon came, and was kind enough to shew me all the curiosities of the place.

Erlau is of considerable extent, and charmingly situated in a fruitful valley, surrounded with hills, which are covered with vineyards. A small river, near the banks of which are warm baths, runs through it, and divides it into two counties. It contains near twenty thousand inhabitants, many of whom are Greeks who keep shops and warehouses, and, as a reward for the services of their forefathers in driving away the Turks, enjoy particular privileges. It is celebrated for being the seat of an university; one of the richest bishopricks in the kingdom; and for the red

wine that is grown in the vicinity, which is highly esteemed for its flavour, and has an extensive and ready sale over every part of the emperor's dominions.

The university forms one side of the large square of the town, and, having been a few years back repaired and beautified, makes a splendid appearance. The cieling of the hall which contains the library, is elegantly painted, and the observatory is provided with a fine collection of instruments; but the number of students has lately declined, and the professors have many idle hours on their hands.

The revenues of the see amount to the enormous sum of 200,000 florins, or 20,000 l. sterling, but it has been, for several years, without a representative; and, as the king has the privilege, during war, of applying, to the defrayment of his military expences, all church revenues that may fall during its continuation, a successor to the late prelate is not likely to be soon appointed. The bishops in former times resided in the castle, which stands on the summit of a steep and lofty rock, and has, in the course

of its history, been many times attacked, defended, and subdued. The present palace has no very stately appearance; but the gardens, before they were neglected, must have been remarkably pleasant.

When I called to take leave of the prefect, and to thank him for his politeness, I found that he had ordered six of his own horses to conduct me the first stage. This, in Hungary, is not an unusual compliment. Indeed, in all countries, that are rarely visited by travellers, hospitality is a leading virtue; and those few, who make their appearance, meet with a reception that is highly flattering and grateful to the heart. The reason is natural and sufficiently obvious. In countries which are much frequented, the multitude and variety of strangers, who are continually running over them, occasion the impossibility of their engaging much attention; and the public accommodations, that are every where provided, prevent the want of it being felt. Whereas, in regions which are seldom resorted to, the accommodations

are deplorable, the means of communication unpleasant, the obstructions numerous, the inconveniences multifarious, the delays perpetual. The feelings of the inhabitants naturally incline them to diminish the evils to which the traveller is exposed. They, at the same time, fulfil the duties of benevolence, and gratify the social feelings of the soul. With them, the means of information are difficult, the sources of intelligence confined, the charms of variety distantly removed. A stranger appearing among them is a curiosity. His arrival is a topic of conversation. Every one is anxious to see him, to converse with him, and, above all, to repay, with kindness and courtesy, that spirit of investigation, and contempt of impediment, which have induced him to deviate from a beaten road. In every quarter of the globe, in which civilisation has made any progress whatever, man is inclined to hospitality. As it is one of the best, so is it one of the most prevalent, propensities of our nature; and, in general,

whichever way our course may lead us, in proportion to our hardships and embarrassments, is the disposition to relieve them manifested.

Leaving Erlau, for the first two or three miles towards Meszo Kovesd, the country is beautifully romantic, and abundant in wood, corn, and wine. The scene suddenly changes, and becomes flat, uncultivated, and uninteresting. The appearance of the people is also miserable and dirty. They are wretchedly clothed, and, instead of stockings, wrap tattered scraps of linen round their legs and feet. The road to Harsan, which is the next stage, continues level almost the whole way, and few signs of cultivation are apparent. The only pleasing prospect is the mountains, which form the western boundary, and are enriched with forests of oak.

Mischkolz is a small neat town, pleasantly situated between two hills, and encircled with woods, vineyards, and fruitful meadows. The inhabitants, who are mostly Hungarians, are engaged in the cultivation of

their vines and orchards, and the chief business of the women is spinning. Several antient families are established here. The climate is good, the air pure and healthy, and provisions cheap; but what this town is most remarkable for, is the number and depth of its wine cellars, which are cut out of the solid rock. I only stopped here to change horses, and proceeded to Diosgyor, a village a few miles distant. I drove immediately to the house of the prefect, who received me with the greatest civility, and insisted on my remaining with him for the night. Being desirous of seeing as much as I could of the place before it grew dark, shortly after my arrival, he and one of his son's accompanied me, on foot, about the town and its environs.

Diosgyor is of small extent, but its situation is in a high degree beautiful and romantic. It stands in a valley enclosed by hills, which are covered with vineyards and woods. Orchards, very productive in fruit, adjoin the houses, and

a stream, abounding in trout, runs through the town. One of the greatest curiosities is a fine ruin called Maria's castle. This Maria was the daughter of Lewis I. and it takes its name from having been the favourite residence of that unfortunate queen. It has, in the course of its history, been the scene of many a midnight revel, and was fitted up with all the splendour which unbounded wealth and a luxurious imagination could supply. When Maria Theresa paid a visit to Diosgyor, she was so struck with the superior attractions of the spot, that she had some thoughts of repairing the castle, and of restoring it to its former magnificence; but the expences of the seven years' war so reduced her purse, that she had no money to spare.

At a short distance from the castle, there is another curiosity, known by the name of the Long Cellar; an appellation it well deserves, as, on exploring it a few years back, when it was discovered, it was found to communicate with Erlau, which is at the distance of six German miles.

It is supposed to have been excavated by the Turks while they were in possession of that town, and must have been of great service to them during the siege, enabling them to procure provisions, and keep up a communication with different parts of the country. It has been a very laborious undertaking, and could only have been effected by the most persevering industry, as a considerable part of it is cut through the solid rock. The entrance of it serves now as a repository for wine.

On our return to the prefect's, I found an excellent supper prepared, and passed a very pleasant evening with his family, consisting of his wife and two sons. The people in this part of the country, sequestered as they are from the luxuries of populous and dissipated cities, have preserved a great simplicity of manners, which, when blended with a courtesy that springs from benignity of heart, must always constitute a highly pleasing and interesting character. They were very inquisitive about England; and, in return, furnished me with much

uſeful information respecting Hungary. We were so pleased with each other's conversation, that the night was far advanced before we thought of retiring. Having expressed a desire to see the forges that are in the neighbourhood, immediately after breakfast, my worthy landlord ordered his carriage and six horses to convey me to the place. The road was of difficult access, and we, several times, ran great risk of being overturned; but the country consisted of a mixture of rock and wood, which was, beyond description, romantic. On our way, we descended twice from the carriage to examine and admire the uncommonly beautiful petrifactions and crystallizations with which the rocks abound. The forges are situated in a small valley at the foot of a range of lofty mountains. They are six in number, and the iron that is worked in them is brought from the mines of the adjoining county of Abauiwar, which are among the most productive in Hungary. It is once melted at the mines, but is

sent here in a very rude state, when it undergoes a second fusion, and is then manufactured into bars, horseshoes, and nails. Six or eight workmen are employed at each forge, who have the most grotesque and savage appearance of any human beings I have yet seen. Our Cornish miners are polished gentlemen to them. Whilst they are at work they are nearly naked, and such is the filthiness of their habitations, that they are obliged to anoint their bodies with rank grease to protect them from vermin. This is never washed off, so that you may imagine the die of their skin; and the few, who wear linen, never think of quitting it, till it quits them. Their hair, which they allow to grow to its natural length, is also moistened with grease, and, never combing it, or even disentangling it with their fingers, it exhibits one clotted mass of nastiness. This, indeed, may be brought as a general accusation against the Hungarian peasantry: and I have often thought, that if I were emperor, one of my first acts of munifi-

cence should be the establishment of a manufactory of combs, and one of my first acts of authority should oblige my subjects to use them. We got back in little more than three hours.

Provisions at Diosgyor are plentiful, and living is consequently cheap. The bread is excellent, and you can procure very fine beef at 1¼d. a pound. The wine resembles a good deal, both in body and flavour, that grown near Erlau, and fruit is in great abundance, particularly apples and plums, from the latter of which a kind of brandy is distilled. Clothing is the only article that is dear, but the inhabitants content themselves with very little; and good flax is grown in the neighbourhood, which is manufactured into a coarse linen. Most of the peasants have a small garden and a vineyard, and might, from the general indulgence of their masters, live very comfortably; but they are addicted to idleness and drinking, and never work but from compulsion. I observed nothing particular in the costume, except that the women

wear huzzar boots of red or black cordovan leather, which is prepared in the country, and at so cheap a rate, that a pair, completely finished, fetches only from three to four shillings. There are warm baths in the town which are frequented at particular seasons.

Leaving Diosgyor, as I advanced towards Szikszo, the country became very hilly, and on every side was covered with vineyards. The town, which is small, stands on a fertile plain, enriched with grain, vines, and fruit-trees. Shortly after leaving it, I had a fine view of the mountain of Tokay, so celebrated for the wine which bears its name, and of which every one has heard, and wishes to taste. It rises to a considerable height in the form of a cone; and a few acres of it, or of some other favourite hill in the neighbourhood, is a valuable possession. The greatest part of the Tokay wine does not grow immediately in the vicinity of the town, but round several villages which are scattered to the north of it, to the distance of twenty

miles. It is only, however, on confined spots that the most precious is produced; and, from the small quantity that is made, it fetches an exorbitant price, even in the country. As the great object, to secure a good harvest, is to let the grape hang till it is half-dried, the vintage seldom takes place till the middle or latter end of October; and, if the weather be favourable, is even deferred till November. Success, however, is very precarious, and, if rain or a hard frost suddenly set in, almost every thing is lost. When the season continues open, many grapes of every bunch shrivel, and are allowed to remain on the stalk till they become a perfect sweetmeat. These are carefully picked off, and pressed apart; and, in proportion as the syrup that comes from them is mixed with the juice of the remainder, depends the flavour and value of the wine. The best is rich and oily, of considerable strength, and, when new, very sweet; but after it has been kept forty or fifty years, it loses that quality in a great degree, and becomes,

though still a luscious, an exquisite, wine. The Poles and the rich Hungarian nobles are the chief purchasers of it. They and their agents, during the vintage, assemble at Tokay, which, in that season, becomes a general resort of gaiety and fashion; but as it is a small dirty town, and very uninteresting at present, I was satisfied with a distant view of its environs.

For want of the precaution of sending forward a courier to bespeak horses at Szikszo, I was detained there just four hours and a half, so that I had an opportunity of examining, at my leisure, all its beauties, which I shall not easily forget. There is, indeed, in this part of the country no regular post, and so rarely does a traveller make his appearance, that it is not to be supposed that horses will be kept in the stable for so remote a chance of their being wanted. They were all at work in the fields, and, unfortunately for me, at a great distance. But a traveller's patience is so frequently exercised, that perhaps in no one quality is his stock of virtue so in-

creased; and I had learnt to bear similar disappointments tolerably well. What, however, provoked me at the time, and has since amused me, was a circumstance which may serve to illustrate the character of the people. When I had been waiting full three hours, a peasant came trudging up with the harness on his shoulders, which he threw down close to the carriage. Anxious to take my departure, as he was going away, I asked him where the cattle were? He answered, they were close behind him, and would be with me immediately. I, of course, expected him to return every minute. But I saw no more of him, and was glad, an hour and a half after, to procure horses from another quarter. The peasants of this place are friendly and civil, always saluting each other and strangers as they pass, saying, "God bless you, or Jesus Christ," to which the reply given is, "Eternity."

Proceeding to Forro, I passed through extensive plains, laid out in pasturages, which were numerously stocked with horses, cows,

sheep, and pigs. Hence to Caschau, the road is hilly and rough, and, owing to the detention I had met with, I did not arrive till four o'clock in the morning.

Yours, &c.

HUNGARIAN REFERENCE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

LETTER XXXI.

Gros Lomnitz, September 19th, 1799.

The inn at Caschau is a most unfortunate one for the repose of a wearied traveller; but I was in that happy state, that the shelter it afforded me (for it did nothing more) was highly appreciated. Every one who has been in difficulties is soon convinced of the facility with which the human mind accommodates itself to its situation; and, when there is nothing better to hope for, we all of us learn the policy of turning to the best account the little we possess. When the evil is irremediable, complaint is frivolous; and it is much wiser to endeavour to find out some cause of satisfaction than to increase the misfortune by grumbling at what we

cannot redress. After a little philosophising of this nature, I laid myself down, and soon forgot all my wants in a sound sleep.

Although Presburg assume the title, Caschau is, properly speaking, the capital of Upper Hungary. It is an antient city, and was formerly a place of great strength. A small brook runs through it, and it is pleasantly situated on a plain on the banks of the river Hernat. Some of the houses in the principal street are well built, and the market place is spacious; but it has dwindled from its former importance, and does not at present contain above 6000 inhabitants. The principal church is the only thing worth seeing. It is a stone edifice, in the Gothick style, and was completed by Mathias Corvinus. The Hungarians regard it as a masterpiece of art, and fondly compare it to the metropolitan church at Vienna; but one can easily forgive those prejudices which people entertain in favour of their country. Within, there is a curiously wrought double staircase, and a finely carved pillar, both in

stone. The other ornaments are very preposterous, and the organ is a bright green one. The famous opal mines of Czerwenitz are only a short day's journey from Caschau; but I was so fearful of being too late for the mountains, that I could not prevail on myself to spare time to visit them; and, as soon as I had satisfied my curiosity about the town, which was soon done, I proceeded on my journey in a contrary direction.

As far as Jasso, which is the first stage, the road is tolerable, and intersects a pleasing and romantic country. Lofty hills, thickly planted with trees, present themselves on every side, and form an agreeable contrast with the rich meadows and pasturages of the valley. At Jasso there is a fine seat, belonging to the emperor, standing in a charming situation, which was formerly a monastery, richly endowed. It was suppressed, and sequestered, by the reforming hand of Joseph II. a prince who had talents, and acted from pure motives, but ruined the work he

wished to accomplish by his hasty and ill-timed proceedings. Nothing in politics is so perilous as to attempt to alter, by precipitate experiments, the rooted habits and prejudices of a people. They never can endure these accelerated transitions; and to this fatal mistake may be ascribed the loss of the Netherlands, and, at his demise, the return of his Hungarian subjects to their antient customs and modes of life. This convent must have been a delightful retreat for the indulgence of lazy and luxurious priests. The building has a grand appearance, and the domain attached to it is extensive and diversified, contributing both to ornament and use. The church, which forms the centre of the edifice, has two towers with gilt roofs, and the interior is enriched with marble, gilding, pictures, and statues. I had a letter to Mr. de Novak the emperor's superintendant, who was, unluckily, from home, which I much regretted, as I was told I should meet with a very agreeable man, particularly skilled in music, and himself

a finished performer on the flute. I slept at the post-house in the village, which is a little farther on, where I met with very civil people, and, before we went to bed, we had a grand concert performed by the family.

On the 13th, the following morning, in spite of wind and weather, I set off at six o'clock, and having laid my account for a most disagreeable day's journey, I was not disappointed. The road was mountainous and rugged, confined between two ranges of mountains clothed with impenetrable woods; the wind was high; and the rain incessant. I was, therefore, very glad to find myself about four o'clock in a shabby inn at Schmölnitz.

Schmölnitz is an ill-built town, with dirty, narrow, irregular streets, lying in a confined valley, and surrounded on every side by mountains. It is very populous for its size, and a place of considerable consequence to the government, on account of its copper mines, which have long been celebrated, and are still very productive,

In order to be admitted into the mines in Hungary, it is necessary to be provided with a passport to that effect from the Hungarian Chancery at Vienna, which lord Minto had the kindness to procure me, so that, with my private letters, I had every recommendation that was necessary; and every civility and attention I could expect to derive from them, was readily bestowed. Mr. Drevenyak, to whom I was particularly addressed, was unluckily from home, but I was referred to an acquaintance, who politely accompanied me every where.

The first person we waited on was the chief inspector, who, on reading my passport, immediately ordered one of the miners to attend me, and shew me every thing that interested my curiosity, or deserved my observation. After seeing the process of coining, which I shall, in another place, have occasion to mention, I proceeded to the mines. As, however, I profess to be no mineralogist, and to have given very little attention to that branch of science, I shall only

furnish you with a few general observations.

These copper mines are several in number, and are worked partly by the king and partly by private persons. Those belonging to the king are naturally the most extensive, and, being desirous of entering into one of them, I made choice of the most celebrated. I was tempted to make this expedition from the facility of the descent and the goodness and dryness of the ladders. One can scarcely form an idea of the works under ground without seeing them. They are immense. The pumps for raising the water from the mines are, in their principle, nearly similar to those I have seen in Cornwall, but the machinery falls infinitely short. Some of these caverns are 180 fathoms in depth, and branch out at different stages, in various directions, to a considerable extent. After remaining under ground for three hours, and exploring many of the subterraneous passages, I was very glad to see daylight again, to rest my

limbs, and breathe the atmosphere of the upper regions. These mines, although some of them have been worked for centuries past, are far from being exhausted, every hundred weight of ore yielding from two to twelve and even fifteen pounds of pure copper. The private mines are richer than those belonging to the king; but the proprietors are obliged to pay a duty of seventeen per cent. on their produce, for the privilege of working them. All the ore, both from the royal and private mines, as soon as it is brought up, is carried to the public smelting houses, where it is melted and proved. The number of workmen employed in the different mining departments surpasses two thousand, who are not paid by the day, but according to the weight and relative value of the ore; and the quantity of pure copper annually produced is about 15000 cwt.

These mines bring in a considerable revenue to the crown, by which the chief part of their produce is purchased. Copper, simply refined, fetches thirty-six florins a

cwt. and, when manufactured into bars or plates, about forty-eight. But the most lucrative use to which it is applied by the government, is converting it into coin; as, by this operation, one cwt. which costs originally 36 florins, yields about 80 in money, leaving a profit of 44 per cent. This, to be sure, is not clear gain, as the expences of coinage must be deducted; but these are comparatively trifling. Such immense advantages might furnish a hint to our own government of the policy of making a charge, on a just and moderate scale, for the trouble and expence attending the conversion of bullion into current species. It might, indeed, in these times, be resorted to with peculiar propriety; as, independent of the revenue that might be derived from it, other good effects would result. The principal reason of the gold coin of this country disappearing is, that its intrinsic value is greater than its circulating value. It is consequently exported, and melted down. Besides copper, these mines produce antimony and sulphur to a consider-

able amount; and about 1200 cwt. of copper is gained annually by cementation.

I took my leave of Schmölnitz on the morning of the 15th, in company with a surveyor of the mines, a very ingenious gentleman to whom I had been introduced, and who had been very kind to me during my stay there. We took the way to Iglo, and stopped to dine at a small village called Hegyen. The road was mountainous, and, in consequence of the heavy falls of rain, in so deplorable a state, that our progress was very slow. The prospects were highly romantic; nothing tame or soft, but on every side lofty mountains, extensive woods, and towering rocks. Just before we entered the village, I had, for the first time, a distant view of the Carpathian Alps, rising majestically far above every other eminence. The weather, on that day, was very changeable, and, one moment, they were obscured in clouds, the next their snowy tops were illuminated by the glowing rays of an autumnal sun. We procured but a scanty meal at this

miserable place, and, as soon as our horses had rested, proceeded to Iglo, which we did not reach till six o'clock in the evening.

It is rather a neat town, pleasantly situated on a small plain on the river Hernat; and, on account of its centrical position, is the usual residence of the administration of the sixteen towns of Zips. The principal street is wide and uniformly built, and contains some good houses. There are iron and copper works in the neighbourhood, but they are not very considerable, and, being at some distance, I did not visit them. At night, to my great astonishment, the town was illuminated, and in a very grand style. Variegated lamps, and even transparent paintings, were exhibited. I could not conceive the occasion of such a general demonstration of joy in this remote and retired corner of the globe, and, on inquiry, was very agreeably surprised to learn, that it was in consequence of the good news which had been received of the surrender of Mantua.

This was so like the loyalty and public spirit of Old England, those rare qualities on the continent, that I was quite delighted. At night a ball and supper were given, to which I was introduced by my friend, and received by every one, for the sake of my country, with the most marked attention and respect. I know of nothing more gratifying to the feelings of a man, who sincerely loves his native land, than such testimonies of public opinion.

The following morning I waited on Mr. Okolicsany to whom I had a letter. He endeavoured to prevail on me to remain there the whole of the day, but I could not spare the time; and, after breakfasting with him, was politely sent forward to Leibitz with six horses belonging to the magistracy of the town.

The road was so deep and hilly, that, notwithstanding the lightness of my carriage, it required all the exertion of the six fat, well-fed corporation nags to drag me along. The views that presented themselves, on every side, were strikingly grand

and interesting, and were frequently embellished, and terminated, by the aspiring heights of the Carpathian Alps. Immense forests overtop the hills; the valleys are productive in oats, barley, and flax; and the meadows afford a wholesome nourishment to the cattle.

Leibitz, where we stopped, is an old, small, shabby looking place, peopled chiefly by Saxons, who employ themselves in husbandry, and the superintendance of the woods. They also manufacture linen; and a coarse cloth is woven by the peasants. The women are remarkably stout, of which, as they wear their petticoats only down to their knees, and go without stockings, one can form a pretty accurate judgment.

From Leibitz to Gros Lomnitz the road was in such a miserable state, that we were several times very near being set fast. A slow foot's pace was the limit of my hopes, so that I had plenty of time to contemplate the beauty of the country. I was now amongst the Alps, enclosed on every

side by high mountains. Flax and barley prosper below, and their summits are crowned with wood.

At Gros Lomnitz, having a letter to Mr. Berzevitzi, I immediately drove to his house. He received me with the greatest kindness, and insisted on my remaining with him. As soon, however, as he learnt that my intention was to attempt to reach the summit of the mountains, much snow having already fallen in these parts, he counselled me to proceed to Hradec, in the view of ascending the Krivan, which was easier of access, and, in the opinion of many, even higher than the peak of Lomnitz. I was easily induced to yield to this advice, and, the following morning, I set off, but not till I had promised, in case of disappointment, to return.

The distance was short, but the journey long. About half way, I stopped to rest my horses at a dirty village, where the ragged inhabitants were hard at work, beating and preparing flax. The houses, in

most of these hamlets consist but of a ground floor divided into two apartments, and are constructed of pines which are split in halves, and mortised together at the ends. From this place the roads were execrable. They were steep and narrow, covered, in some parts, with large loose stones, and, in others, with ruts a couple of feet deep. The views were a compensation for these inconveniences. They are on a majestic scale. The valleys are well cultivated, and produce barley, oats, and flax. The lower mountains are thickly planted with huge pines; the higher ones present their naked heads, towering above the regions of vegetation.

I did not arrive at Hradec till six o'clock in the evening. I was much pleased with its situation, and greatly surprised at its neatness. After traversing an extensive tract of country, from which the comforts of life, as far at least as cleanliness is concerned, were almost completely banished, to light suddenly on a place, the last too on this side these wild and tremendous

mountains, which, in neatness, surpassed even a Dutch village, appeared like enchantment. It is of small extent, but all the houses are substantially and uniformly built of a rough stone, which is plastered and whitewashed, and every window has outside Venetian blinds. This hamlet and the domain around it, belong entirely to the emperor, who has established extensive works for the manufacture of iron, and the sawing of wood. Mr. de Wisner, a gentleman of considerable ingenuity and information, has the superintendance of every thing that is going forward, and, to his judgment and good taste, the place is indebted for its present thriving condition. I had a letter to him from Hadik, and, whilst I continued his guest, was comfortably lodged, and hospitably entertained.

The morning after my arrival, he ordered his carriage immediately after breakfast, and we set off on a little excursion to see the environs, which are highly curious and interesting. I was rather mortified to learn, that, on account of the quantity of

snow which had already fallen, it would be utterly impossible for me to fulfil my project of reaching the summit of the Krivan; and that, such was the dreadful state of the tracts in every part of the mountains, that it would be perilous even to attempt it. I therefore determined, after spending a day here, to profit by the kindness of Berzevitzi, and return to Gros Lomnitz.

The first place Mr. de Wisner conducted me to, was the founderies, where a great deal of iron, brought from distant mines, is melted, and manufactured into bars for exportation. We next visited the magazines of timber, which are the most extensive in the kingdom. They consist entirely of pines, which are hewn in the neighbouring mountains, and are not surpassed in bulk by any of Norwegian growth. The cultivation of them is, at present, much attended to, and excellent regulations have been made, both respecting cutting and planting, to prevent their decrease. Wood indeed is an article of

the greatest consequence to the northern parts of Hungary, as it is the only fuel; and the immense consumption, occasioned by the numerous works that are every where established, has occasioned an alarming diminution of stock. An abundant store of pines is always kept here on hand, piled up, that they may have time to season, and be ready for the sawmills as they are wanted. The whole of the machinery is very ingeniously contrived, and acts with such celerity and force, that these immense timbers are divided, in the course of a few minutes, into two, three, or four planks, according to their size. They are then floated on rafts down the river, which communicates with the Danube, whence they are conveyed to different parts.

We now left the village, and proceeded for a short distance, till we came to a hill, from whose summit there is a fine view of the celebrated Krivan, which I had heard described in such glowing colours, and which was to me an object of sanguine curiosity. I was soon convinced, from the

quantity of snow which surrounded its base, of the total impossibility of ascending it, and was obliged to content myself with a distant view. The day was fortunately clear, and I saw it distinctly to its highest pinnacle which was glittering with snow. The summit of this mountain is calculated to rise 2781 yards above the level of the Mediterranean. During summer, that is to say, from the commencement of July till the end of August, (for the summer here has but a transient reign), it is entirely disencumbered of snow, and the ascent to it is by no means difficult. About three fourths of the way up, are the remains of some gold mines, which were opened by the emperor Maximilian, but which have been, long since, deserted. They yielded native gold, but in such small quantities, that they were always a losing concern. The people of the country are strongly impressed with the idea that this mountain contains inexhaustible treasures; and a number of wretched beings dedicate their lives to the laborious and

fruitless pursuit. Led on by hope, they submit to every hardship and peril. Disappointment, instead of convincing or deterring them, only excites fresh diligence and new experiment; and their days are wasted between the severity of toil, the apprehension of danger, the perplexity of doubt, and the repetition of failure. Near its summit are several lakes, which, from their great depth, are conjectured to communicate, through subterraneous channels, with some of the great rivers of Hungary. The waters of these lakes are agreeable to the taste and pure to the eye; but the vapours, which exhale from them towards night, are said to be of so noxious a nature, that birds, attempting to fly across them, have been known to fall lifeless down. This is the story, at least, as it was reported to me. In another part of this mountain there is a fine cascade formed by the Bela, which precipitates itself into a valley, and afterwards forms a junction with the Hernat. The only quadruped inhabitants of these wild regions are bears, wolves,

chamois, and marmots. In summer time the two former are very shy, and have inaccessible retreats to which they fly from the approaches of man; but, as the winter approaches, they frequently descend into the vallies, and commit depredations on the cattle and grain.

The people who live in the vicinity of these mountains are a hardy race. The climate has inured them to difficulties and privations, to which we should be loth to submit; but nature generally balances the account pretty fairly, and what she denies us, she seldom suffers us to want. Fuel is in such abundance, that they care little for the absence of the sun; and, where every one is poor, wealth is a useless commodity.

There is another natural curiosity, in the county of Liptau, about five miles from Hradek, which is, a subterraneous cavern called Demanovo; but the description of the road deterred me from going to see it.

We got home to a late dinner, a good deal fatigued, but much delighted with

our expedition. I soon learnt that my kind landlord had, previous to our departure, ordered an elegant repast to be prepared, and had invited most of the gentlemen and ladies of the place to meet me. Nothing could be more pleasant or cheerful than the day. In the evening we had a concert, and, before we went to bed, an excellent bowl of punch.

This morning, the moment it began to dawn, I was on my return to Gros Lomnitz, where I arrived in good time. Berzevitzi was very glad to see me again, and I had equal pleasure in returning to him. With his assistance, I have already engaged guides, and made other preparations for my expedition to the mountains, which is to take place to-morrow, and of which I shall give you an account in my next.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

Schmolnitz, September 25th, 1799.

On the 20th of September, about nine o'clock in the morning, I set off from Berzevitzi's house on my expedition to the mountains. I took my servant and three guides with me, who were loaded with clothing and provisions, and each was furnished with a gun, in case we should, by chance, fall in with a bear or a wolf. The season of the year was very unfavourable for such an excursion, and, what was more unfortunate, the weather was bad for the season. But for good weather it was hazardous to wait, and, after so many disappointments, I was not to be deterred by slight obstacles.

I went in my carriage to the foot of the

mountain, which was at a much greater distance than I imagined. The road was, at first, tolerably good, and the acclivity gradual, but it soon became worse, and, at length, so steep, that I was obliged to proceed on foot. The ascent, for a considerable way, is by no means difficult, and leads to numerous patches of pasturage, which yield a rich and wholesome nourishment to the cattle. The scenery became wilder and more romantic as we advanced, and I was surrounded on every side by precipices and caverns, torrents of water and forests of pines. After an hour's march, we came to a spot that was sheltered from the wind by an immense fragment of granite, which, in some dreadful convulsion, had been separated from an overhanging peak. We halted here, and kindled a good fire. Whortleberries, in great abundance, grew close by, which our guides, after eating of them plentifully, collected to carry home. Having rested ourselves for about half an hour, we continued our expedition. The pro-

spects soon became more wild, and the tract more rugged; and we were every now and then obliged to make considerable deviations to avoid the snow, which had drifted in particular places, and to which we were fearful of trusting. We shortly after came to a waterfall, which was formed from one of the lakes above, and precipitated itself, in a copious current, among the rocks several hundred yards below. It fell with a tremendous noise which was echoed through the mountains, and produced a grand effect.

I still continued to advance, and got within a few hundred yards of the summit of the peak, when I was stopped by an insurmountable barrier of snow. My guides had, indeed, refused to accompany me thus far, pleading as an excuse the danger of the attempt; but I was determined to proceed till there was no possibility of proceeding farther, and, in spite of their remonstrances, explored the way alone. But here my hopes terminated; and, after dwelling, for a short time, on the gran-

deur of the scenery which encircled me, I began to descend, and, in about twenty minutes, rejoined my lazy and pusillanimous companions.

The peak of this immense mountain is, after Mont Blanc in Switzerland, the highest point of land in Europe, measuring, according to the observations of our ingenious countryman Townson (who visited it some years back, and was the first that reached its summit), 2880 yards above the level of the Mediterranean. The lower regions of it are clothed with pines of immense stature; higher up, grows the crumholz, so called from the distortion of its ramifications; and, lastly, the lichen, above which there is an impenetrable granite with scarce a trace of vegetation. Many beautiful and rare Alpine plants are to be met with in different parts of this mountain, the collecting of which, to those who are fond of botanizing, must be an interesting amusement. But, as you know, I have no turn that way, these curious productions of the vegetable world

scarcely attracted my notice. What I delight in among mountains is the grand and awful scale on which Nature presents herself. I like to contemplate the eternal basis on which these ponderous and gigantic masses repose; to view their lofty summits, which, whilst countless generations have been swept away, have been aspiring towards the regions of immortality and light; to behold the rifted rock, the impetuous cataract, the unfathomable cavern; to hear the winds howl through the valley; to see the thick mists rise and disperse; and the succeeding sun glittering on the snow-capt peak. These sublime operations of nature fill the mind with fresh evidence of the power and goodness of Providence; and administer to the soul a mingled sensation of terrour, surprise, and gratitude, which, the first time it is felt, seems to awaken it to the contemplation of a new world.

Excursions among these mountains are frequently attended with considerable danger, and accidents sometimes happen even to the most experienced guides, particularly

at this advanced season of the year, when they run the risk of being surprised by sudden tempests, or impenetrable mists which involve them for hours in obscurity. The climate, indeed, is at all times very uncertain, and those who, in summer, inhabit the mountains, tending their flock and herds, or who undertake long excursions in quest of discovery, are exposed to very severe hardships. The bears and wolves are numerous, and the mountaineers never venture forth without a gun to defend themselves, and a hatchet to cut firewood. They hunt the bears for the sake of the skin, which they can sell for 20 or 30 florins; but they run considerable risk, and do not often succeed. They have all stories to relate of their adventures, of the hardships they have encountered, and the perils they have escaped; and this was the conversation of my guides as long as we were on the mountain. I was, however, suspicious that they exaggerated facts, in order to induce me to hasten my return.

We descended nearly by the tract by

which we had mounted, and, after having spent six hours in this region of wonder, I again found myself safe below.

We immediately got into the carriage, and proceeded towards Lomnitz with all possible expedition, and, half dead as I was, with fatigue, and almost perishing with cold, I was delighted to find myself seated before a blazing fire in Berzevitzi's parlour.

Berzevitzi is a well-informed man, and has much the manners of the world. He has travelled into foreign countries, and made observations which have divested him of most of the foolish prejudices that prevail in his own. He is sensible of the numerous disadvantages under which it labours, and, above all, of the defects of its constitution. He is a warm advocate for liberty; not for that unjust and oppressive spirit of feudalism, which takes from many to give to a few; but for that liberal and enlarged system which is built on the broad basis of humanity, by protecting the rights, and consulting the interests, of all.

He is a bachelor, but lives with his mother, an elderly lady, whose goodness of heart and simplicity of manners remind one of primitive times. He has an excellent library, which is an endless resource to an inquiring mind. He is also a musician, a sportsman, and a farmer; so that, secluded as he appears to be from the world, he has plenty of occupation, and passes his time much more rationally, and, I will venture to say, much more satisfactorily, than those who are perpetually moving in a vortex of dissipation and fashionable pleasure.

We passed a most sociable evening, which I truly enjoyed, and which was succeeded, when I went to bed, by an uninterrupted sleep.

The following morning was spent in conversation, music, and rambling about the village; not that Lomnitz has any curiosities to boast of. It is small, straggling, and dirty, and the inhabitants are very poor. The peasantry, in these parts, employ themselves entirely in the culti-

vation of their land, the superintendance of their cattle, and the preparation of their flax, which they afterwards manufacture into linen of different qualities. They are not, however, very industrious, and wine and spirituous liquors being cheap, they are apt to indulge in them to excess.

In the evening we received a visit from the Protestant clergyman, who, I soon found, wished to pass for a man of general knowlege; and, in order, I suppose, to give me a favorable idea of the universality of his information, he thought fit to descant on the state of British literature. It was a most unfortunate subject for him to select; and I soon discovered the nature and extent of his merits. He had acquired a slight smattering, and had learned a few great names by rote; but these having flourished long since, he was very desirous of convincing me, that every branch of learning in England was on the decline, and that we could boast of no living celebrated literary character. My feelings were a little roused at an assertion of this kind;

but, on my mentioning several of whom he had never heard, and of course objected to, my indignation evaporated in contempt. He had afforded me sufficient testimony of his ignorance and impertinence, and I declined discussing the point any farther. It is astonishing how easily foreigners are led astray by their own arrogant and self-sufficient importance, founded on a supposed acquaintance with every thing that regards England, and I have heard many entertain the same preposterous opinion. Now, incontestably, if any reign in the annals of our country has been pre-eminently distinguished for the production of genius, and the encouragement it has received; for the advancement of all the various branches of manufactures and arts; for important discoveries in astronomy, natural philosophy, agriculture, medicine, and surgery; for the successful cultivation of eloquence, history and ethics; for the general diffusion of knowlege, and extension of scientific inquiry; it is the present. In what era shall we find a more lu-

minous display of illustrious names gracing the annals of British literature? and, indeed for many years past, whilst other countries have been rent by convulsions, or bleeding under the revolutionary axe, Great Britain has afforded a safe and peaceable asylum to every thing connected with the advancement of science.

On Sunday we had a numerous company to dinner, consisting of ladies and gentlemen, who had collected from the neighbouring country. We spent a very pleasant afternoon, but it was pleasure moderated by regret, as I had already determined to take my departure the following morning.

When the morning came I carried my determination into execution, but not without a considerable degree of emotion, for I had been most kindly and hospitably entertained, and felt that sort of growing attachment to the family which is generally the forerunner of lasting friendship. But how often, in the course of my travels, have I been disturbed by similar sensations. How many are there, whose conversation

has been a source of pleasure, and whose friendship has been a source of satisfaction, from whom I am now separated by an almost immeasurable distance, and many of whom I am, I fear, destined to meet no more.

Berzevitzi, on my taking leave, gave me a letter of introduction to the countess Schaki, whom he described as a lady of a very cultivated understanding, and in possession of a very beautiful place. He was extremely desirous that I should see them both; to which I could have no possible objection, as an agreeable woman is worth seeing in every country, and a pretty place, particularly so, where so few are to be seen.

It was only seven or eight miles distant, and I set off with the intention of dining there; but my conductors, although the plainest directions were given to them, mistook the road; and, instead of conveying me to my charming countess, set me down at a miserable inn at Leutschau.

Although Leutschau is the county town of Zips, it does not, at present, contain

quite five thousand inhabitants. It was formerly much more populous, and a place of considerable strength, but the ramparts and fortifications are now completely in ruins. It is neatly built, and in a delightful situation, surrounded by fruitful hills. The inhabitants support themselves principally by husbandry. The pasturages and cornfields yield an abundant harvest, and the gardens and small farms round the town produce excellent vegetables and fruit. All this, however, could not make amends for my disappointment; and, as soon as I had taken a scanty meal, and provided myself with fresh directions, I set off again in pursuit of the countess. She was only three miles off; and, shortly after we got out of the town, we luckily fell in with a carriage that was going the same way. We had, therefore, nothing to do but to follow, though this was no easy matter; and, after passing over the worst roads it is possible to imagine, expecting every moment to be overturned, and, by way of romance, to break my neck; at

the end of two hours and a half we at last arrived. Three miles in two hours and a half!

The countess was fortunately at home, and welcomed me with the greatest politeness. The other party, being people of the country of inferior rank, was received with ostentatious formality, and approached her with profound respect, each in turn kissing her hand. This is a custom universally observed in Hungary by inferiors to superiors, and also, very frequently, between equals, at least by gentlemen towards ladies, and by unmarried ladies to matrons. From an inferior, it is a mark of humiliation; from equals, an act of courtesy. It is indeed a fashion that prevails pretty generally throughout Europe, especially in countries where there are any considerable remains of the feudal institution. It is not, however, a custom which at all corresponds with our notions either of liberty or decorum. In the first instance, it degrades the person who is obliged to practise it; and, in the second, lays the foun-

dation of half the intrigues, which, on the continent, are the leading pursuits of the fashionable world.

This place is called Sans Souci, from the favourite residence of Frederic the Great, near Potsdam. The mansion, which is spacious, and built with considerable taste, stands in the middle of a wood, and, contiguous to it, are a handsome theatre and several small buildings and lodging-rooms. After conversing about half an hour with the countess, she ordered her carriage with six horses, that she might conduct me round the grounds, and point out to me all their perfections. The rest of the company followed. I really was very much pleased with this little tour, and surprised at the beauty of the scenery, and the judgment with which every thing was disposed. We had several interesting views, and stopped to drink tea at a kind of hermitage, enclosed by wood and rock, with a cascade, and rustic seats. We did not get back to the house till eight o'clock, when the rest of the company took leave, and I

was left *tete à tete* with my fair hostess. She was not very young, but she was a sensible well-bred woman; and I do not recollect having spent many pleasanter evenings. She spoke in high terms of Old England, and was a great politician. We had an elegant supper, excellent punch, Tokay fifty years old, and sat chatting on various topics till twelve o'clock. She pressed me very much to stop another day, but my arrangements would not permit me, and I was obliged to take my departure early the following morning.

After a tedious drive of five hours, through a mountainous country, and over a wretched road, I alighted at Kirchdorf, a small town, pleasantly situated, but badly built and paved. The church, which is an old Gothic structure, contains a few curious monuments in red marble ; and the Zipser castle, which stands on an eminence near the town, is an interesting and striking object.

Shortly after leaving Kirchdorf, to the left, in a pleasant situation, stands the seat

of count Emanuel Schaky, brother-in-law to the countess, to whom I also had letters, but he was not at home. Advancing, I passed over the Braniczko, a mountain of great height, and from whose summit there is an extensive view, which is terminated by the Carpathian Alps. Hence to Eperies the road is in an execrable state, and the country naked and uninteresting.

Eperies, which I did not reach till late, is a neat little town, standing in a delightful situation, and surrounded by gardens, corn-fields, and hills, which are covered with beautiful woods. It is a walled town, and its domestic history has not been a peaceable one. Many of the houses in the principal streets are substantially built, and are the residence of some of the antient nobility of the country. The inhabitants are Germans and Sclavonians, and carry on a trade in wine, corn, and cattle. There are manufactories of linen and cloth but to no considerable amount.

I had a letter to a gentleman of the

name of Steinhutel, who is a great lover of prints, and the possessor of a considerable collection. Among others, he shewed me the numbers, as far as he had received them, of Boydel's superb edition of Shakspear. It is probably the only copy of that splendid work which has reached this country; and it gave me great pleasure to see so fine a specimen of our national taste in this remote and unfrequented part of Europe.

About an hour's ride from Eperies are the ruins of Sarosch, once the magnificent castle of the Rakoizi. They stand on an eminence; but are more interesting from their past celebrity than from their present appearance.

I took an early dinner, and, in the afternoon, went to Soovar, to see the salt-works, which are in high repute, and are only about half an hour's ride distant. On my arrival I stopped at the house of one of the principal superintendants, to whom I had a letter, and who politely attended me round himself.

The mines belong to the emperor. Formerly the salt was made from the rock, which is in great abundance. But, for many years past, it has been collected from the water which flows through the mines, and which is so strongly impregnated with saline particles, that one hundred weight of water yields twenty-five pounds of salt. It is drawn up in large leathern buckets from a well eighty-one fathoms deep, and fifty-five to the surface of the water. The great pan, in which the water is boiled, is emptied every two hours, when the salt is put into casks, which remain four and twenty hours in the drying houses. They manufacture, at present, about two hundred weight daily; but, by the new works which are erecting on an improved plan and a much larger scale, they are in hopes that the quantity produced will not be less than five-hundred weight. This is a profitable concern for the emperor, as the salt costs him only about 20 cruetzers the hundred weight, and is sold at 3 florins 8 cruetzers. The

magazines of wood are also very considerable. I drank coffee with the superintendant, and immediately on my return to Eperies set off for Schmölnitz.

The road I think is the worst I have yet passed, stoney, narrow, and so full of deep ruts, that the horses could scarcely drag the carriage along. A few miles from Eperies we had to traverse a steep and rugged mountain, which detained us so long that we could not reach the next stage. We were at last overtaken by the night, and, on such a road, our situation was by no means a comfortable one. We, however, continued to grope our way as well as we could, getting into dreadful holes, and expecting every step to be overturned. After going a slow foot's pace for upwards of two hours, we came to the confines of a thick wood, which the postillion was not inclined to enter. But I insisted on his advancing, and, having wandered about for another hour, we at length discovered the glimmering of a candle. This was our polar star, and by it we

steered our course. On coming up to it, we found it proceeded from a miserable hut full of people. We hesitated, for a moment, about entering; but the coldness of the night and a heavy rain soon determined us. We accordingly knocked, and begged admittance. Our petition was readily granted; but the filthy appearance of the place, and terrifying looks of its inhabitants, almost made me regret that it had been made. Feeling very hungry, I asked for something to eat, but their pantry was totally unprovided; not even a scrap of bread was to be had. This being the case, I thought the best thing I could do was to prepare for bed, and to endeavour, by a sound sleep, to ged rid of my fatigue, and of still more uncomfortable sensations. Many of the members of the household were already stretched on the clay floor, men and women together pellmell, some with their ragged clothes on, others undressed. No ceremony was shewn towards their guest, and, if it was not one of the most pleasant, it was certainly one of the

strangest scenes I ever witnessed. The rest had secured their stations; and, when I came to look about for mine, I found there was just space enough left for a small bundle of straw. There was no alternative, so I tried to content myself. But the most unfortunate part of the business was, being obliged to separate from my servant; as even, if there had been room, it would have been necessary for him to remain with the carriage, which was an open one, to take care of the baggage. Shortly after he left me, every one took his post, and the candle was put out. They immediately began to talk at a great rate, and, not understanding a word of their language, for they were all Sclavonians, I naturally imagined they were talking about me. It now seriously occurred to me, that I was in a lone house, in the middle of a thick wood, inhabited by people who were miserably poor, and who, from their fierce and savage looks, had very much the appearance of banditti. I could have conjured up many a horrible tale from the stores of romance,

and have easily conceived that one of them might have been realized in me. But, however I lamented having put myself in their power; being there, I knew that I must abide my fate, whatever it might be. I therefore endeavoured to quiet my alarms. At length their conversation ceased, but not their noise, for the whole party fell a snoring most musically; and I was now so satisfied that they were honest people, that had it not been for the fleas, who paid their respects in crowds to the stranger, I verily believe that I should have joined the concert. As it was, I did not get a wink of sleep; and never was the dawn of day hailed by any mortal with sincerer joy. I instantly rose, had the horses put to, and, after handsomely paying my landlord for suffering me to escape, took my departure.

The passage through the wood was worse than I had conceived it to be, and, after creeping along for half the morning, at the rate of two miles an hour, we reached the small town of Remete, in which are exten-

sive iron works, on the same plan as those I have already mentioned.

From this place to Schmölnitz the road is somewhat better, but has been much spoiled by the late heavy rains. The country is mountainous and woody, and abounds in romantic views. The noise of the hammers, and the smoke issuing from the forges, at last announced my near approach to Schmölnitz, which I shortly after entered.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIII.

Schemnitz, October 8th, 1799.

On the 25th of September, I returned to Schmölnitz, of which place I have already given you an account. My reason for taking this road was, that I might see the grotto of Akteleg, of which, whilst in the mountains, I had heard wonderful relations, and which has been rarely described.

Early the following morning I took my departure for this celebrated cavern, expecting to arrive there towards the evening; but, owing to the badness of the roads, I could get no farther than Azilas, a small but neat village, planted with trees. Shortly after leaving Schmölnitz, I traversed a lofty mountain thickly overgrown

with woods of box and fir. The views which presented themselves, in different directions, whilst we were winding about it, were highly beautiful. The various tints of leaves (which in this cold and humid climate already begin to fall) intermingled with the bright verdure of the pasturages, and the dark shaggy appearance of the rocks, produced a charming variety. It is wonderful how often nature, in this respect, surpasses even the conception of fancy, that fertile and ever fluctuating faculty of the mind. The declivity of the road was remarkably steep, and commanded several interesting views, particularly one of the ruins of an old castle. When we were quite at the bottom, we entered into a small plain, divided into pasture and arable land, which was employed in the growth of Turkish wheat; and, proceeding a little farther, we again got among mountains which were, a considerable way up, planted with vines.

At Azilas I was agreeably disappointed,

in finding rather a comfortable inn, and much more cleanliness than I had lately been accustomed to. A numerous collection of cattle, particularly cows and pigs, graze on the neighbouring pasturages; and I was a good deal diverted at the scene of confusion that was occasioned in the evening, by their return home. Several hundreds were at the same time let out of an enclosure. The cows advanced with their ordinary, sober, deliberate, pace; but the pigs scampered in various directions, with a fleetness I had never before remarked in the animal, each going the shortest way to the house to which it belonged. It was perfectly farcical to see them suddenly darting off different ways, and a minute or two after assembled in small troops before every door. They had no leader with them, and I never observed so strong an instance of the sagacity of a pig.

On the 27th, the moment it was light, I proceeded on my journey, and, after passing a road in a most ruinous state, I got to Akteleg about two o'clock. I had

no sooner alighted at the inn, than I began to make preparations for my expedition to the grotto. In about half an hour I procured a couple of guides, who came each loaded with a bundle of sticks which were full of turpentine, and were to serve instead of candles to give a light under ground. The entrance of the cavern is only a few hundred paces from the village, and lies at the foot of a perpendicular rock, which is about 150 feet in height. It is several feet broad, but so low, that we were obliged to creep in on all fours. It inclines downwards, and, after a few yards, suddenly expands into an immense vault, where the petrifactions already begin to appear. From this vault several narrow passages branch off in different directions. The form and dimensions of this extraordinary cavern are continually varying. Sometimes it is so contracted that it is with difficulty one can proceed; in other places the passages are wide, but steep and rugged, with large fragments of stone, and very difficult of access; in others again,

lofty domes and deep cavities present themselves. When we had been in it about half an hour, we came to a large vault which is called the church, from its resemblance (though not a very accurate one) to a Gothic cathedral. The altar is very grand, and the numerous stalactites which hang from the roof produce a beautiful effect. Proceeding a little farther, we came to a winding rivulet which we had to cross several times. The path was very bad, but we were abundantly repaid for our trouble and perseverance, by the wonders of the place. The number, beauty, and variety, of the petrifactions are beyond all description, and reminded me of those places which imagination has erected to embellish tales, and which are conjured up by supernatural agents. You see an assemblage of caverns, altars, domes, peaks, arches, and pillars, in all positions; and the most beautiful stalactites of every dimension, some broken off with their own weight, and others just starting into existence. There was one pillar in particular

which attracted my notice. It is about ten feet in height, and has been formed in a long succession of years by the dropping of water from the roof which has petrified. It is about eight inches in diameter, firmly adhering to the ceiling and floor, and, if you strike it with iron, sends forth a soft and melodious tone. It is of a yellowish white colour, and, from its transparence, has much the appearance of alabaster. But what is perhaps the most curious circumstance attending this cavern, and puzzles all investigation, is, that, at a considerable distance from the entrance, which I have already described as very confined, there are two regular tracts which run, for some interval, in parallel lines. They resemble very much those seen in the streets of Pompeia in Italy, and certainly seem to have been occasioned by the frequent passage of carriages. If this be the case, there must be some other entrance, which has not been discovered; and yet what carriages could have to do in this

gloomy subterraneous abode, I am at a loss to conjecture.

The cavern, as we advanced, branched out into several divisions, some of which are said to extend for many miles; and such are the number and perplexity of the paths, that it is a complete labyrinth, and requires an experienced guide to conduct you safely through it. I remained in it upwards of three hours, and lamented that I could not proceed farther, for its beauties and wonders were continually increasing. But our bundles of sticks were very much reduced, and we were fearful of being left without a light. It is surprising that this very remarkable cavern is not better known. It is said to have been formerly made use of as a place of refuge; but it is only of late years that it has attracted the notice of the present generation, and that very partially. Had it existed in almost any other part of Europe, it would, long ere this, have been a subject of inquiry, and have been minutely explored in all its

aberrations. It would have been accurately delineated both by the pencil and the pen. But here investigation sleeps, and no spirit of information is capable of rousing the lethargic disposition of the inhabitants. Even those who have been passing their lives within a quarter of a mile of it (with the exception of the two guides who gain their subsistence by attending on strangers) can give no intelligence concerning it; and, such is even the stupidity and inexperience of the guides, that they are often in the greatest embarrassment about the way, and are unable to answer any inquiries.

On my return, after making an excellent dinner at the inn, which had been prepared during my absence, I set off for Tornalya, where I arrived about half past five. The road was very bad, and the greatest part of the way intersected a thick wood of oak and box. The people are miserably poor, and miserably clothed. Notwithstanding the advanced season of the year and the coldness of the climate,

the children had nothing but shirts on, and the women were nearly as naked. The post is under the worst regulation; and, although I had given notice of my intended arrival, by sending forward a courier the day before, I could procure no horses, and was obliged to remain there all night.

In the morning, on the 28th, I was more fortunate, and continued my journey to Rimaszombath, another small village, over a bad and hilly road, but through a pleasant country. Beyond Rimaszombath the landscape is undulated, and beautifully diversified with wood and corn. We went on to Seleny, and thence to Vamos, and passed through an extensive and thick wood intersected by a wretched road.

Most of the inhabitants of this part of the country are Calvinists, and employ themselves chiefly in the pursuits of agriculture.

Some of the costumes of the women are very fanciful, and in great variety. They differ from each other every ten or twelve miles, particularly about the head-dress,

which seems to be the principal object that occupies their taste.

I did not reach Vamos till ten o'clock at night, and alighted at a miserable inn, half-starved with cold and hunger. But it did not yield many comforts. There was neither fire nor victuals. It afforded nothing but shelter. As I was passing through another room to my own wretched apartment, a lady, to my great surprise, popped out her head from under the clothes, and asked me how I did. On approaching her, I discovered she was a person whom I had met on the road two or three days before. When I asked after her husband whom I had then seen with her, she told me, very cooly, that he was sleeping on the outside to take care of their baggage. But although she had so little charity for her beloved lord, she was kind enough to supply me with provisions, and, in the morning, with some excellent coffee. To prevent, however, any suspicion of scandal, I ought to inform you, that she was neither handsome nor young; and, in conducting

herself in this manner, which with us would have a strange appearance, she was only practising the usual courtesy of the country.

It was with no small satisfaction that I took leave of my comfortless quarters early in the morning. I continued my journey, through a flat uninteresting country, to Vigles, as wretched a village as any I have met with. The postmaster had the appearance of a complete savage, and, not being able to read, could not make out my order to have the horses in readiness. They were consequently to fetch. In about an hour and a half, however, they made their appearance, and conducted me to Neusohl. The distance was fifteen miles, but such was the badness of the cattle, and the deplorable condition of the road, that upwards of six hours had expired before we arrived. As we approached Neusohl the country afforded many romantic views. The hills were covered with wood, and the meadows and valleys refreshed by the river Gran. There was also a few vine-

yards, but the wine they produce is very bad, and is sold at about sixpence a bottle.

Neusohl is a small neatly built town, delightfully situated in a valley which is encompassed by lofty hills. The principal street is wide and uniform, and most of the houses are constructed of stone. It is surrounded by a wall, and the rivers Gran and Bistritz flow close to it, and afford it many advantages. The churches and other publick buildings are numerous, but not remarkable for architectural taste.

I rose pretty early in the morning, and, after breakfast, I waited on baron Sluga, (who has the chief direction of the iron works established here) with some letters of introduction, and was very politely received. He made me stay to a twelve o'clock dinner with his family, who appeared to be very amiable people, particularly the baroness his wife. As soon as we rose from table, he insisted on shewing me himself the curiosities of the place.

We first went to see the copper works, which are very curious, and on an extensive

scale. They are chiefly employed in the preparation of the copper which is brought from the Herren-grund mines, and is afterwards forwarded to Kremnitz to be coined. The ore is melted once at the forges near the mines. It undergoes a second fusion and purification here; and, when it is reduced to the proper standard, is cast into plates. These plates, which are round and about two feet in diameter, are afterwards cut into strips about an inch broad, and these strips are again cut into small round pieces. They are then sent into an adjoining room to be milled, an operation that is made no secret of here; after which they are counted, weighed, packed up in casks, and sent to Kremnitz to receive the stamp of currency. I was very much entertained with the whole of this process. The machines and instruments made use of are ingeniously contrived, and neatly finished.

We next went to see the amalgamating apparatus, which was erected at a great expence, under the directions of the celebrated

baron Born, for the purpose of extracting, by a process of quicksilver, gold and silver from their ores. But not having been found to answer, it has not of late years been used.

In one of the rooms I observed a simple, but useful, machine for heating water. It was a large wooden vessel, in the form of a deep tub, with an iron stove within it, standing on three legs. There was a funnel for the conveyance of the smoke, and a tube, passing from the stove to the side of the vessel, for the introduction of fuel; so that the stove, which may be heated to any degree, when the vessel is full, stands in the middle of the water. By this method of boiling water, there is a saving of fuel of six parts out of seven; and it might I think be adopted with great advantage in any manufactory which occasions, a large consumption of hot water. There are other smelting houses where copper ore is melted which contains silver; but, when there is a mixture of gold,

it is sent to the founderies at Tajowa, a few miles off, to be separated by liquation.

Upwards of five thousand people are employed in the works at and near Neusohl, and 2000 toises of wood are annually consumed at the different forges. The fuel is brought from the immense forests which extend, for thirty or forty miles, along the banks of the Gran, where four hundred people are employed a great part of the year in hewing it. When cut, it is thrown into the river, and floats down to Neusohl. The copper here, which, in plates, is sold for 55 florins the quintal, produces, when coined, 164.

The environs of this town are so beautiful, that there is a Sclavonian proverb which says, "In this life at Neusohl, in the next in heaven." They consist of hills and dales, mountains and meadows, rivers and woods, which are charmingly blended. Amongst other delightful walks, there is one called the Rechen, which is also a great curiosity. It is made entirely of wood,

and extends for about a mile and a half in a winding direction along the banks of the Gran, which runs in a fertile valley, laid out in meadows and corn-fields, and bounded by mountains which are thickly overgrown with trees. From this walk I had a view of the Herren-grund mines. They are not much above two miles distant from the town, but I did not go to see them. These mines are among the most antient in the kingdom, having been discovered above 800 years ago, and their depth surpasses 1200 feet. It is generally admitted that they are now worked to a disadvantage.

The inhabitants of Neusohl are chiefly Germans and Sclavonians, and their number does not much exceed five thousand. Amongst other occupations, brewing is carried on with considerable success, and the beer of this place is celebrated throughout the country. But I suppose all the brew-houses in the town would nearly stand in one of Meux's large vats. When I described the dimensions of these huge ves-

sels, every one thought I was romancing; but no wonder; for in England undertakings are carried on by individuals, which, out of England, none but sovereigns can attempt. The bread is good and cheap, and the markets are well supplied, particularly with fruit, which grows in great abundance in the gardens that surround the town.

On the 7th, I proceeded on my journey. The road, for the first eight or ten miles, runs through a narrow, but highly fertile and beautiful valley, laid out in corn-fields and meadows, which are fertilized and adorned by the river Gran. The hills, which enclose it, are of endless shape, and covered with forests of beech and fir, whose varied verdure afforded a succession of bold and romantic views. Although this is a very frequented road, uniting two of the richest and most flourishing towns in the north of Hungary, it was so completely out of repair, that we were half the day going the first stage, a distance of sixteen English miles; and, when we got there, we were

detained at the post-house an hour and a half waiting for horses. Whilst I was stopping I entered into conversation with the post-master, who, the moment he discovered I was an Englishman, became very inquisitive about my country. It was not, however, its navy or its commerce, or its manufacture, but its horses, that were the object of his inquiry; and, after stating a variety of strange opinions, and putting a number of ridiculous questions, he at last asked, with the greatest simplicity, if our horses were born with short tails, having never seen any with long ones. I must, however, to diminish your surprise, inform you, that cutting off a horse's tail is called *Anglicising* him.

Leaving this place, the beautiful valley, I have already noticed, continues for a few miles, when the road takes a different direction, and the country assumes a colder aspect.

Kremnitz is a small walled town, lying in a deep valley, which is encompassed by lofty hills. It contains about five thou-

sand inhabitants. Shortly after my arrival I waited on the gentleman at the head of the offices, who politely attended me to the different works. The mines of Kremnitz are very antient, and have long been celebrated, not so much for the quantity, as the value, of the ores, which all produce gold and silver. I descended into one of them, which was near ninety fathoms deep; and, after walking and creeping through subterraneous passages and windings for about half a mile, I came to another mine with which they communicated. Being a good deal fatigued, they asked me if I would be wound up, to which having given my consent, I was placed on a cross stick fastened to the end of the rope, with a back rope to lean against. This is certainly the least fatiguing and most expeditious method of reaching the surface of the earth; but, to a person unacquainted to these kind of conveyances, the prospect downwards is not very flattering. My head at last began to turn, and had I not shut my eyes and held fast by my hands,

all my journies would, I believe, have terminated here.

The entrances to the mines, and other parts which require support, are all lined, as at Schmölnitz, with split firs, but by no means so neatly, nor is the descent so convenient, or the ladders in such good repair. Many of the passages have existed for upwards of four hundred years, long before the method of springing them with powder was practised, and their excavation must have been attended with infinite labour. For some time past they have not been very productive, but the miners persevere in the hope of discovering new veins which will better repay the trouble and expence of working them. This, indeed, can be the only inducement to continue their exertions, for although gold and silver are still found, the quantity is so small, that the concern is a losing one.

After visiting the mines I went to see the mint, which is on a grand scale. I was shewn, without reserve, the whole process, from the ore, as it is brought from

the mine, till it receives the last impression of the die. The various forms it assumes, and changes it goes through, as well as the machines and instruments that are made use of, are all well worthy of observation. But gold and silver are, at present, in the greatest scarcity, and the machines that were at work were all employed in the manufacture of 12 kruetzer pieces*. At these they labour day and night; such is the want of money at present, for the payment of the troops, and other necessary expences of the government. The stamping machines are worked by a couple of men, who can, with ease, stamp a thousand pieces in an hour.

On leaving Kremnitz the following day, and taking the Schemnitz road, I passed through a romantic country, nearly resembling that in the neighbourhood of Neusohl, and I fancy a continuation of the same valley.

* This is a small piece of money of base metal, washed with silver, which passes for about 5d.

I stopped to breakfast at a small village called Stuben-baad, which is celebrated for its hot baths. They belong to the emperor, and some of them are very neatly built, and are in high repute for the removal and radical cure of a variety of complaints. The man who shewed them, seemed to have an implicit faith in their efficacy, and was very verbose in relating the prodigies they had operated. He reminded me of some of our advertising quacks, who frequently destroy all credibility by the enumeration of the wonders their nostrums have performed. He, however, was not so interested as they in his recommendations, every one being admitted gratis. Two baths are appropriated to the gentry, and as many to the poor; and, on account of the terms, the visitors, at this season, are generally numerous. The place is delightfully situated, and the purity of the air, and liveliness of the scenery which nature on every side exhibits, contribute I fancy as much, or possibly more, to the restoration of health, than the waters. The imagi-

nation has indeed a wonderful effect on the animal system, both in the contraction and removal of disorders, and one of the best preservatives of the constitution is a cheerful temper and an active mind. The country continues beautiful for several miles beyond this village; but as it approaches this place nothing is seen but black and barren hills. I now expect to be at Buda in the course of two or three days, from which city I shall transmit to you an account of the remainder of my journey.

Yours, &c.

NGARIAN REFERENCE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

LETTER XXXIV.

Buda, October
10th, 1799.

SCHEMNITZ, where I had just arrived when I dispatched my last letter, stands in a country whose surface is naked and barren, but the riches which are deposited under ground richly compensate for outward sterility. The town is indifferently built, and the ground being very uneven, the streets are scattered and irregular. Its population amounts to eight thousand souls, above one half of which have employment in and about the mines. Some of the public offices are extensive, and conveniently arranged; and there are two or three splendid collections of fossils and minerals in private hands. On the summit of a hill, sanctified by the name of

Calvary, stands a church, and on another are the ruins of a tower reported to have once belonged to the knights templar. These hallowed spots have not, however, diverted the attention of the inhabitants from their worldly interests, and the immense excavations that have been made on every side afford ample testimony of their industry and avarice.

It is not my intention to enter into a particular description of these mines. They are numerous and rich, but not more interesting than those I have already described. They yield gold, silver, and lead, and their annual produce has been reckoned as high as 3,000,000 of florins; but they are no longer worked to the same advantage. The pumps and machines, for raising and carrying off the water, are on a grand scale, and have been erected at an enormous expence; nor have either pains or money been spared to promote the progress of mineralogy in all its branches.

The mining academy, which was established in 1760, by Maria Theresa, is cele-

brated throughout Europe, and students flock from all parts to derive advantage from this excellent institution. It is divided into three classes, and there are separate teachers for the different branches of the profession, such as, geometry, mechanics, chemistry, mineralogy, metallurgy, hydraulicks, and hydrostaticks. Several of our countrymen have resided here occasionally.

On leaving Schemnitz, as I travelled towards Gran, I left the mountains, hills, and woods, behind me, and descended once more into the insipid plains which announce the neighbourhood of Buda; truly insipid at this season of the year, when nothing is to be seen, as far as sight extends, but tracts of stubble without even the humble ornament of a stone wall enclosure.

The post in these parts too, notwithstanding their vicinity to the metropolis, is under the worst regulations imaginable, and a letter is sometimes a week travelling a few miles. When I used to boast to the

post-masters of the expedition of our mail-coaches in England; of the regularity with which every thing was conducted, and the safety with which every thing was conveyed; I might, I believe, as well have been silent, for these were relations which totally surpassed their comprehension. Although I had dispatched a courier the day before from Schemnitz, that the horses might be in readiness at the different places I intended to pass through, he had thought proper to take a nap on the road, and I overtook him two stages short of Gran. I not only had to wait a considerable time, but, in consequence of the intreaty of the post-master, who pleaded inability to procure any horses but those I wanted, was induced to carry the mail bag. At the end of my day's journey, a flying bridge conveyed me across the Danube, and I entered Gran.

Gran, which is the see of an archbishop, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Danube, and surrounded with hills which produce very good wine. It is of

small extent, and, being thinly peopled, has a dull appearance. The fortress, which has been several times attacked by the Turks, exhibits the marks of their vengeance. It stands on a lofty rock that rises close to the river, and the ascent to it is very steep; but it is in a ruinous condition. It, however, still contains a few good dwelling houses, a church, and an elegant chapel, enriched with marble, which is the only remaining part of the cathedral that was demolished by the infidels. The chapter has since been removed to Tirnau.

The archbishoprick of Gran is the highest clerical distinction in the kingdom, the person who is raised to it being, in right of his office, primate of Hungary, lord lieutenant of the county, and prince of the empire. He is also invested with important prerogatives within his ecclesiastical domain. He enjoys the exclusive privilege of crowning the king; can create nobility within his archiepiscopal

territory; and possesses an income of 30,000l. sterling.

I left Gran at an early hour in the morning, and, travelling across a flat insipid country, arrived at Buda yesterday at three o'clock.

Thus have I accomplished this long and interesting journey, and if it have been attended with some fatigue and inconvenience, it has also been productive of much pleasure and information, and has supplied me with many sources of agreeable reflection as long as I live. The accommodations were neither numerous nor comfortable; but the expence, although I was frequently obliged to submit to imposition, was not much more than proportionate.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

Buda, October
20th, 1799.

On the 12th, at eight o'clock in the morning, I left Buda with my friend count Hadik and another gentleman of the name of Kanzler, on a party of pleasure, to the lake of Platen. Hadik, who is a patriotic man, and very desirous that I should form notions advantageous to his country, was kind enough, shortly after my return from the mountains, to propose this little tour, which was very interesting in itself, and rendered doubly pleasant by the cheerful society of the count.

The road, for several miles, runs on the Danube, of which it presents many charming views. We had not proceeded far when we came to a village which has a

very romantic appearance, from many of the houses being cut out of the rocks. Near it there is a long hill, which is covered with vines, and, from its shape and the direction it takes towards the river, is called the Promontory. The Danube is here divided into two streams by the island of Schepel, which is several miles in circumference, in a high state of cultivation, and enlivened with villages and burghs. The Jesuits, in the last century, had the modesty to ask Charles VI. to give them a grant of it in perpetuity, that they might make use of it as a kitchen garden, and the bigotted monarch was on the point of acceding to their request, when he was prevented, by being informed of its value.

A great deal of wine is grown in this neighbourhood; and, it being the vintage season, and the weather very fine, the festive gaiety of the scenery was truly delightful. The gathering of the grape is, I think, the most lively and jocund of all harvests. It diffuses mirth over every countenance. All is dance and song, and

every one seems to enjoy, by anticipation, that jollity and glee which its produce is destined to promote.

The next village we came to, though I have forgotten its name, is one of the most remarkable I have seen. All the houses are under ground, and nothing of them is to be discovered but the shelving roofs, with one or two small windows and a low chimney. They are covered with turf, and so strongly constructed that horses and light carriages may pass over them without doing mischief.

We stopped to take an early dinner at Martin Wascho, and afterwards went on to Stuhlweissenburg, where we slept.

This was formerly a place of considerable consequence, and contains the ashes of several of the antient Hungarian kings. It is a small town now, surrounded with a wall and ditch, and is the see of a bishop, who has a revenue of 30,000 florins. The cathedral is distinguished from the other churches by its two spires, but it has no

other peculiarity. The situation is flat and marshy, and the inhabitants, who are about 11000 in number, are chiefly employed in the cultivation of wine, and the breeding of cattle. Shortly after our arrival we called at the house of a priest to see his collection of minerals, which was considerable, and well arranged. It is astonishing how much the science of mineralogy is at present cultivated in this country. It is evidently the ruling passion, and every thing depends on fashion here as elsewhere. It may, perhaps, at last, be pushed too far. It certainly is a useful branch of knowledge, and ought to receive a proportionate encouragement. The tulip fanciers in Holland were beneficial in a certain degree; but, when they made the study and possession of a few short-lived flowers the principal object and happiness of life, the pursuit was misapplied.

The following morning we stopped at the country seat of one of Hadik's friends, where we met with a charming

woman, and were regaled with an elegant repast. We travelled forward to the next village through a flat but cultivated country, and over a very indifferent road. It was quite deserted by its inhabitants. Not a soul was to be seen except a few young children, and men and women in the last stage of decrepitude. The weather was fine, and every one, that could be of any use in the vineyards, was out at work. We were detained upwards of four hours waiting for horses, and should have been very badly off indeed, had it not been for the hospitality of a person who held some petty office under government, and who, knowing Hadik by name, invited us to his house, and gave us a good dinner. At last the horses came, and we immediately set off, but the roads were in so bad a state, that it was impossible to make a rapid progress, and we did not reach Fured till ten o'clock. We had, nevertheless, several beautiful views of the lake as we approached it. The evening was perfectly calm; not a breath of air was

stirring; and the heavens were lighted up by a transplendent moon, which spread its mellow light over every surrounding object, and, reflecting itself full in the waters of the lake, gave it the appearance of an immense mirrour. I know of no scene in nature which conveys so perfect an idea of tranquillity as the stillness of water exhibited by moon-light. It always represents to me the calmness of old age after a life of useful and active virtue. Every thing was hushed; the animal creation was reposing from the labours of the day; even the air seemed to be partaking of the general indulgence.

Fured is the most fashionable watering-place in Hungary, and the accommodations for strangers are numerous and commodious. The inn is indisputably the best I have met with. There are several baths, both hot and cold, and a source of sour water which is drunk in the spring and summer, for the loss of appetite and other stomachic complaints. The lodging-houses are pleasantly situated in rows,

on the borders of the lake; and, at a small distance from the inn, there is what is called an English garden, prettily laid out in parterres and serpentine walks, and bounded by hills which are clothed with vineyards. In this garden there is a pavilion, built on an eminence, which commands a fine view of the lake.

On our return from our ramble, we hired a carriage to conduct us to Tihan, which is a small village pleasantly situated at the extremity of an isthmus, that stretches, for several miles, into the lake. Above the hill, on a lofty cliff, stand a church and cloister formerly belonging to the Benedictin monks, but suppressed by Joseph II. It was an old establishment, having been founded, and richly endowed, about the middle of the eleventh century, by king Andreas I. whose remains lie under the great altar. The church commands a fine view of the lake, which is ten German miles in length, and, towards the eastern extremity, above two broad. The scenery is not, however, very

picturesque. There are a good many villages on its shores, but it wants islands, mountains, and woods. The eye wanders over an immense space without meeting with any of the marked features of nature to fix it to a particular spot, nor is it even enlivened with boats. The water is beautifully clear, and abounds in a variety of fish, among which that called the fogas is the most esteemed. It frequently weighs upwards of twenty pounds, is dried by the fishermen, and considered as a great delicacy.

This immense lake, in a country where industry was encouraged and a spirit of commerce prevailed, might be converted to many important purposes. A communication with the Danube might easily be opened, which would be a great assistance to the internal navigation of the kingdom ; and, if the lands which surround it were properly drained, they would yield a produce which, in a few years, would repay the expence tenfold. Petrifactions are frequently picked up on the shores; and,

near Lölla, I am told, the sand is so impregnated with iron that it owns the attraction of the magnet *.

As soon as we got back to Fured we set off for Buda, and returned by the road we came. At the village where we were detained before, we again met with the same fate; and, although our horses had been bespoken, we had to wait for them above a couple of hours. The judge is always accountable for these neglects, and we frightened him very much by threatening him with five and twenty lashes. This seems a strange kind of punishment to inflict on a man in so dignified an office; but such is the custom of the country. We slept at Stuhlweissenburg, and reached Buda the following afternoon.

Yours, &c.

* About half way down the hill there is a remarkable echo which distinctly repeats a short sentence.

LETTER XXXVI.

Buda, March
25th, 1800.

On Tuesday, the 11th of March, I once more set off from Vienna on a tour through Hungary. I had already seen a principal part of this interesting country. I had travelled through it from east to west. I had made an extensive circuit among the mountains, and several other less considerable excursions. I had still a desire to visit the southern parts, and as my journey to Petersburg has been unavoidably delayed for two or three months, I think I cannot employ my time more agreeably than by carrying my wishes respecting Hungary into execution.

My three months' residence in this place, previous to my return to Vienna, had enabled me to form an intimacy with many

of the principal inhabitants, and, by bringing me thoroughly acquainted with the character of the people, had opened to me new sources both of information and pleasure.

For ten days before I left Vienna, I had been waiting, with great impatience, for a favourable change in the weather; but, finding that the frost continued with unabated severity, I resolved to lose no more time, and set off, in company with Mr. Murray, an American gentleman, who has travelled to great advantage, and is a very agreeable companion. The weather was remarkably cold, and the country covered with snow; but, having no mountains to visit, I took my English carriage, which enabled us to travel very comfortably. We found the roads in a much better state than we expected, and got to Presburg, where we remained till the following morning, by two o'clock.

The frost having been very severe in the night, it was with the greatest difficulty we got across the river on the flying bridge. It was surrounded the whole way by im

mense blocks of ice, which gave it several severe shocks, and so impeded our progress, that near an hour and a half had elapsed when we landed on the opposite shore.

We now got on very expeditiously. The roads improved as we advanced, and the snow was beaten into a smooth and firm substance by the traineaux of the peasants which were continually passing. We slept at a small village called Aes, and the next day, by seven in the evening, reached Buda.

In the morning, as soon as I was dressed, I hurried out to pay visits to my numerous friends, and had the pleasure of being convinced, that our gratification at meeting again was mutual. I really cannot convey to you my feelings on this occasion, nor give you any idea of the kindness I so generally experienced. A conviction of the sincerity of friendship is, indeed, one of the most delightful of all our sensations. It enlarges the sphere of our enjoyments; it refines the dress of human passions; it expands every generous sentiment of the breast.

On the Sunday after our arrival, we were presented to the palatine, the archduke Joseph, and, the following Thursday, to his consort the grand-duchess, who received us with the greatest affability and politeness. They are both much beloved, and zealously contribute to the gaiety of the place. They keep a court corresponding with their high rank, and, in the course of the year, particularly during the carnival, give several splendid entertainments, to which all the principal people of the town are usually invited. On the marriage of the palatine with the grand-duchess, the castle underwent considerable alterations, and is now fitted up in a style of superior elegance. Several magnificent pieces of furniture were sent by the emperor Paul from Petersburg, as a present to his daughter on her nuptials. They were conveyed the whole way in small carts, (sixty or seventy I think in number) each drawn by two horses, escorted by as many people, and were seven months on the road. After all this care and expence, on opening the

case which contained the largest mirrour, worth at least 500l. it was found to be shattered to pieces by a large nail, that had been driven through the middle by the man who packed it for the journey. This gives one a good notion of the genius of a Russian upholsterer.

The 19th, being the palatine's name's day, a day of great ceremony and congratulation in Catholic countries, in the evening, out of compliment to him, some ladies and gentlemen of the society represented a play at the public theatre, which was illuminated on the occasion. When the palatine and the grand-duchess entered, they were received with the warmest applause, and the performance went off exceedingly well.

The weather becoming milder every day, and the river being entirely free from ice, on the 22d, the bridge of boats, which had been removed in November last, was, by order of the palatine, replaced. This is always an occasion of great joy both to the inhabitants of Buda and Pest, as it opens

a free communication between the two towns.

The favourable change in the weather obliges us to think of our departure, which the partial kindness of my numerous friends makes me look forward to with real regret. We have been, since our arrival, in a perpetual round of amusement, and have experienced from all quarters the most unreserved hospitality. Desirous that their friendship should be useful to us during our absence, and enable us to fulfil, to our satisfaction, the object of our journey, they have supplied me with letters to the principal people in every place we purport visiting, and have recommended us in a manner that is calculated to insure the kindest reception. Such marks of voluntary confidence and esteem are highly gratifying to those who know how to appreciate them, and they have not been unprofitably (in that respect at least) bestowed upon me.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

Essek, April 1st,
1800.

On Friday, the 28th of March, at an early hour in the morning, having made every necessary arrangement for our journey, we set off from Buda for Semlin. We took the road which lies on the western bank of the Danube, and which, for the first stage, runs close to the river, through a flat country which is chiefly employed in the growth of corn and wine.

At Teteny the post-master told us that we should never reach Ercsin, the next stage, unless we took two additional horses, as the road was excessively bad, and there was a steep mountain to pass. Many tricks of this kind having been practised on me in the course of my travels, I naturally

concluded that this was, like the others, a mere fabrication, and insisted on being sent forward with the usual number, to which, after a long altercation, he at last consented. But his prediction turned out a true one, and, when we came to the mountain, the carriage was set fast. Whilst we were debating what to do, to relieve ourselves from this dilemma, a peasant with his team fortunately came up, on whom, with the aid of a little money, we easily prevailed to assist us. Even with this additional strength, it was with great difficulty we advanced, and we were obliged to animate the horses with the double stimulus of flogging and hallooing, to both of which they are equally obedient.

From Ercsin the road continues on the banks of the Danube, which, in many places, is very broad, and, on the opposite shore, for several miles, fringed with trees. In the day time the weather was warm and clear, but at night the air was very

keen. The snow was still lying on the ground, and the oldest men in the country say, they do not remember so backward a spring. In consequence of these impediments, we made but little progress the first day, and were obliged to sleep at Pentele, which is only four posts and a half from Buda.

Our advances the second day were not much quicker. In our way to Földwar we had hills and snow to encounter almost perpetually; and, in the villages, the deep holes and ruts were so numerous, I thought the destruction of my carriage was near at hand. The houses, in these miserable places, are built of wood and clay, and seem scarcely a fit habitation for man. The country consists chiefly of pasture land; and, in the parts which were free from snow, numerous herds of oxen and flocks of sheep were grazing. The large dogs, which are the companions of the shepherd, and the safeguard of his fold, are, I believe, peculiar to this country. They are a beau-

tiful breed, robust and well formed, with long shaggy white hair. One of them is, generally, stationed on the highest ground, at some distance from the flock, where he keeps watch like a sentinel at an out post. Their vigilance is equal to their intrepidity. On the approach of an enemy, they instantly give an alarm, and, such is their courage, that they will singly encounter, and frequently overpower, a full grown wolf.

The town of Földwar is large and well peopled, and, had we arrived a few days sooner, we should have been present at the fair. It contains a Franciscan monastery, a magazine for corn, and barracks for soldiers.

As we proceeded towards Paks, the road gradually mended, and although we had some steep hills to pass, our pace improved. A great deal of wine is grown in this part of the country, which is stored in large cellars, cut out of the rocks that bound the road.

The next place of any consequence we came to was Tolna, which is a market town of considerable extent, and very populous. Louis II. convened a diet here, in the year 1518: and, in remoter times, in this neighbourhood, the Romans were vanquished by the Huns. We wished to remain all night, but could not procure a bed, and were obliged to go on to Seksard, which is a much larger and pleasanter place. It is charmingly situated in a bottom encompassed by hills, on which is grown some of the best wine that Hungary produces. The castle is a handsome building; and, a few hundred paces from the town, is an abbey founded by Bela I. which is held in such veneration, that people, from the most distant parts of the kingdom, perform an annual pilgrimage to it.

We were not sorry to quit our lodging in the morning. For the first time, the people, who conducted us, refused to mount their horses, alleging that they had never

been backed, and that, if any one were to attempt to ride them, they would be quite unmanageable. The weather was delightful, the road excellent, and the country beautiful. On our left was a chain of hills covered with vineyards that were intermixed with wood; and, on our right, an extensive level tract of corn-land stretching to the Danube. Every inch of ground was cultivated, and the peasants had an appearance of comfort and ease.

About a mile before we reached Mohacz, we passed over the plain which, in the fifteenth century, was so fatal to the fortunes of Hungary. This was the spot on which Louis II. with an army of twenty-six thousand men, encountered the innumerable host of Solyman, and on which himself and the flower of his nobility fell. Never was battle fought with keener resentment by contending parties. The issue not only involved the fate of a powerful kingdom, but was interesting to every state in Christendom. All Europe

dreaded the growing power and ambitious views of the enemy of its independence and faith, and trembled at the consequences of this day. The Hungarians fought with the most determined valour, and, although so inferior to their adversary in numbers, had not their superstition betrayed them into an unwarrantable confidence, their efforts might possibly have had a successful termination. The command of their army was entrusted to Tomorri, a Franciscan monk, archbishop of Colocza, and under him, in command, were six other prelates. The credulous soldiers imagined that infidels, however numerous, could never overpower troops that were headed by these sanctified men; and, impatient of delay, they ventured to attack the Turkish camp. The wary sultan immediately perceived their mistake, and, turning it to his own advantage, poured his artillery on the weakest points. Death and confusion, though not dismay, were soon spread among the ranks; and the

Hungarians contended till scarce a man was left to relate the horrours of the day. Their cause however, was not unrevenged, and the Turks, though victorious, purchased their glory by the loss of an hundred thousand of their best warriours.

Fatal as the conclusion of this dreadful conflict was to the strength and independence of Hungary, it turned out a fortunate event for the house of Austria, and laid the foundation of its future greatness. The archduke Ferdinand, brother to the emperor Charles V. had long pretended, from hereditary right, to the Hungarian crown. On the death of Louis, by which the race of Jagellon became extinct, these claims were renewed; and the Hungarians, considering the desperate state of their affairs, and how necessary the aid of powerful alliances would be to prevent their total subjugation by the Ottomans; stimulated also by the intrigues of the widow of Louis, who was the archduke's sister, after some deliberation, elected him king. Since

that memorable epoch, the united crowns of Hungary and Bohemia have continued in the Austrian family.

Mohacz is an episcopal see, united with that of Fünfkirchen, which, conjointly, make one of the richest benefices of the kingdom, the revenues amounting to 80,000 florins. Fortunately for the emperor it is at present vacant. In the bishop's palace, there is a room fitted up with historical pictures representing the different stages of the battle. They were executed about fifteen years ago at the expence of the late prelate, who was an Esterhazy.

The weather, for the last day or two, had been growing milder, and, as we travelled southward, the country began to assume a gayer appearance, and to put on the garb of spring. The young corn was, in some places, shooting, and the buds of the early trees were already bursting. The change, indeed, in this country, from winter to spring, is usually very rapid, and the disappearance of the snow is, in a

few days, succeeded by the brightest verdure.

In the evening about eight o'clock, we reached Fünfkirchen, where, notwithstanding the size of the place, we had great difficulty in finding even a bad inn. The first we stopped at, we were absolutely frightened from, by the squalid appearance of the landlord, who, after making us wait above a quarter of an hour, came to the carriage with a light just sufficient to let us see that he was more covered with dirt than clothing. He strove hard to prevail on us to remain at his house, and, although we did not gain much by refusing, the experiment was certainly worth making.

Fünfkirchen stands in a pleasant situation at the foot of a hill. It is of considerable extent, but not so populous as formerly, and the wall which surrounds it is in a very ruinous state. The streets are long but narrow, and some of the houses are well built, and the suburbs, on each side, are extensive. The Turks were, for

a long time, in possession of this town, and although they embellished it with some fine edifices, they allowed it to decline in many other respects. The university, which was founded by Louis I. and was at one time the residence of two thousand students, was completely ruined, and the population, which does not at present surpass 12,000 souls, never recovered from the shock. The cathedral is one of the handsomest and most spacious churches in the kingdom. The roof is supported by bulky square pillars, and, besides two other fine pieces of sculpture, the bass relief, opposite the great altar, representing different epochs of scriptural history, from the birth of Eve to the resurrection of our Saviour, is peculiarly beautiful. It was formerly the altar of a chapel belonging to the Erdödy family at Presburg, and was purchased by the late bishop for the trifling sum of one hundred ducats. This church also contains several monuments of the antient bishops, and, in a chapel under ground, is the tomb of king Peter. The episcopal palace adjoins

the church, as well as the public library, which was founded by the late bishop, who died about five months ago. It contains a tolerable collection of books, a few curious manuscripts, and some early specimens of the typographical art. In the garden belonging to the palace, which is at a small distance, there is a fine orangery.

The church which, before the suppression of the Jesuits, belonged to that order, was formerly a Turkish mosch, and it is pretended that it was built after the model of St. Sophia, at Constantinople; but, if this were the case, it is as distantly removed from the grandeur of the original, as the town is from the splendid capital of the East. At a small distance from this church are the vestiges of two vapour baths with domes, which are now made use of as glass shops. There are several other remains of moschs, some of which have been turned into churches, and others applied to less honourable purposes.

The Paulina convent was formerly a considerable establishment, but it was sup-

pressed by Joseph II. and the building, at present, serves as a barrack and granary for the soldiers. Another convent has been converted into a military school, an excellent institution, where the children of the soldiers, from a fund created by the different regiments, are educated, and trained up to the profession of arms. Many of the subalterns and non-commissioned officers are selected from them, and are promoted according to their merit; and those who are under size are instructed in music, or bred to some civil occupation.

From the Calvary hill there is a fine view; and, on the opposite eminence, is the celebrated well to which the inhabitants are highly indebted, as it not only furnishes them with excellent water, but is the origin of almost all their industry and wealth. It is conveyed, by tunnels, from the hills, and, in more flourishing times, kept at work upwards of fifty mills, now reduced to sixteen, where paper, leather, and a coarse kind of woollen cloth, are manufactured. The latter article is a

staple commodity, and is distributed to very distant parts of the kingdom. There is also a considerable manufacture of saffron. Provisions are cheap, and tobacco and wine are grown in the neighbourhood. The men are stout and well-looked, but coarse in their manners. The women are in general pretty, and wear a kind of huzzar jacket with long sleeves, which hang dangling behind.

Having a letter to viscount Vignola, a French officer who has been resident here for several years; in the evening, he conducted us to the countess Festitich's, where we passed a few hours very agreeably. Being nearly related to a particular friend of mine at Buda, I was a welcome visitor, and she endeavoured to prevail on us to remain a few days at Fünfkirchen. But the fineness of the weather, and the beautiful appearance of the country, had, to our shame be it spoken, a greater influence over us than the solicitations of the countess, and induced us to abide by our determination of

setting off for Essek the following morning. Not being a post day, we were obliged to send forward a courier to bespeak our horses, which cost us a ducat.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Peterwardein,
April 5th, 1800.

We left Fünfkirchen on the first of April, at six o'clock in the morning. The weather was delightful, and the country peculiarly beautiful. The road to Schiklos was hilly but good, and bounded the whole way by corn-fields and vineyards. The town is neatly built, and surrounded by hills, on one of which there is an old castle belonging to count Bathyani. At the next stage the post-master supplied us with a plentiful meal of milk and eggs, all he had to bestow, and seemed quite affronted when I offered to pay, a kind of sensibility which an inn-keeper, in most other parts of Europe, would be at a loss to comprehend. A few miles before we reached Essek, we

were surprised by the magnificent appearance of a sheet of fire which extended, for several miles, along the banks of the Drave. It was occasioned by the rushes, which grow to a great height, and had been purposely kindled, to enrich and dry the ground. For the last three miles we passed over a fine causeway, terminated by a wooden bridge over the Drave, which we crossed just before we entered the town.

Essek is the capital of the kingdom of Sclavonia, and lies in a pleasant situation on the banks of the Drave, which, a few miles off, unites with the Danube. It is strongly fortified, and the market-place in the citadel is spacious and uniformly built. The town is at a small distance from the fortress, and is inhabited chiefly by Germans and Greeks, who carry on a considerable traffic in grain. The Greeks, however, one should imagine, have the upper hand, for there is a vulgar saying in the country, that a Greek is as cunning as three Jews.

I had a letter to the commandant, who received us with the greatest politeness, and insisted on our remaining with him to dinner. When we rose from table, he took us to the ramparts, which nobody is, at present, allowed to frequent, without a special permission. They are a pleasant walk, planted with trees, and command several beautiful views. The fortifications have been constructed at a great expence, and are kept in excellent repair; and the arsenal is a large square edifice, capable of containing many thousand stands of arms. Such, however, has been the demand of late for the implements of war, that it is totally unfurnished.

It requires a considerable force to defend this place, but, the emperor being at present in alliance with the Turks, the garrison does not consist of above four hundred men, whose principal employment is to watch over, and keep in order, the French and Italian prisoners. The pay of the military here is very trifling. Each sol-

dier receives four kreutzers (not quite 1½d.) a day; a pair of shoes every eight months; a pair of stockings, pantaloons, and a waistcoat, once a year; a coat in three years, and a cloak in seven. If our troops could be levied and maintained on the same terms, our army estimates would not be so exorbitant.

This place was the Roman Mursa, and, in the small space between the fortress and the town, inscriptions and coins have been dug up, and vestiges of antient buildings discovered. The man who attended us to this spot, related, with great gravity, a long story about two stone coffins which were exfodiated a few years since, and which, on being opened, were found to contain a man and a woman, perfect almost as in life. In the coffin of the man, a lamp was still burning, and, at his side, was deposited a short sword with a spring in the handle, on touching which an idol made its appearance.

The river is a source of much wealth and industry to the inhabitants. It turns

a great many mills, which are employed, for several months in the year, in grinding corn; and, in a commercial view, it might be applied to very important purposes. At present, a vessel is building on its banks, which is to be loaded with grain, and sent into the Mediterranean. This is a speculation of some Vienna merchants, who dispatched one, on the same errand, last year, and made a handsome profit. Such experiments are, however, very rare. The people of the country have no turn for the pursuits of commerce, nor are they at all aided, or encouraged, in them by the government. Their indolence is, indeed, in a great degree, to be ascribed to the facility with which they provide themselves with the necessaries of life. The soil is remarkably generous, and, when little labour is required, little is bestowed. So neglectful are they of the arts of agriculture, that the farmer never thinks of manuring his land, and only ploughs three or four inches deep. It, nevertheless, yields abundant crops of excellent

wheat and other grains, tobacco, sago, and a variety of delicious fruits. Of what would it not be capable, if carried to the pitch of improvement of which it is susceptible. Such is the abundance of wood, and the laziness of the people, that, when they are in want of fuel or timber, to save themselves the trouble of using the ax, they kindle a large fire round the trunk, which is kept burning till the tree falls. They then carry off the large branches, and leave the stumps, which I have frequently seen remaining after the ground has been converted into arable land.

Fünfkirchen is not more celebrated for its water, than this part of the country for its *slibowitz*, which is a strong spirit, distilled from a small plum, as well known, and as much relished, all over Hungary, as whisky in Scotland or Ireland. It is not unusual to present it at morning visits, or before meals, to quicken appetite, and the women are nearly as partial to it as the men. There are several marshes close to the town which might be easily drained; but

nothing that requires labour is attempted. The vapours which rise from them are the cause of many complaints; and they swarm with frogs, whose noisy throats, towards the evening, disturb the peace of the town. The market is well supplied. There is plenty of fish and game, and an astonishing variety of water-fowl. Eagles are frequently shot in the neighbourhood, and herons, whose feathers sell from 16 to 30 kreutzers a piece, are ensnared. The country, to the westward, towards Gradiska, is divided into small farms, sown with grain, or planted with fruit trees and vines, and is one of the most delightful and productive tracts in the emperor's dominions.

In the evening, we accompanied the governor and his lady to a friend's house, where we were all very merry, and at half past four the following morning, we took our departure. The country, for the first stage, is level, and laid out in pastures, corn-fields, and wood. We only stopped at Vucova to change horses. It

is a large town pleasantly situated on the Danube, which has a winding course, and is embellished with islands covered with trees. The principal street is wide and regular, but the poorer sort of houses are wretched huts, built of clay, and thatched with reeds. The finest mansion belongs to count Else, a gentleman who is Imperial minister at Dresden, and was very civil to me during my residence there. From Vucova we found the road very good and bordering on the Danube, of which it furnishes many agreeable views.

Before we arrived at Novosello, we descended to the shore of the river, and crossed it in a ferry-boat. A great many peasants with their carts had been waiting a long time for their passage, but we, being gentlemen, and travelling post, took precedence, and had nothing to pay. The nobles of the country are proud of these injurious distinctions; but to a mind that has been disciplined by the strict and equitable maxims of a free government, and accustomed to a philosophical review of

the constitution of human nature, they present themselves in an odious and detestable point of view.

Novosello is about half an English mile from the opposite shore. It is a small village, and the post road not continuing any farther, we were obliged to have recourse to what is called an assignation, which, on application, had been granted us at Essek. This is an order for horses, which the peasants, in rotation, are bound to furnish at the requisition of the judge of the village. It was originally designed for the accommodation of the military, or of people employed in the service of government; but the indulgence has been abused, and the nobility of the country now generally adopt that mode of travelling. It is a very cheap method of getting through a journey. There is, I am told, no absolute obligation to pay any thing; but what is usually given, is fifteen kreutzers a stage for each horse, and half a florin to the postillion, which is only one third of the price of post-horses. You are, how-

ever, expected to make up, in some degree, for the deficiency, by taking one or two additional horses, as they are generally smaller and worse than those which are provided by the post.

The road from Novosello to Palanka borders the whole way on the Danube; but, although level, it is deep with sand, and the country is not fertile. The opposite shores present a bolder and more varied aspect. In many places they are lofty and romantic, and adorned with vineyards and woods. The post road is continued on that side, but the one we took is the shortest, and, at this season, generally the best. About a couple of miles before we reached Palanka, we had a view of a spacious castle belonging to an Italian nobleman, who has, for many years, been settled in this country. The situation is beautiful, and the climate is now nearly as warm and cloudless as that of his native land. He has also the advantage of a Franciscan monastery, that adjoins his residence, and adds very much to the apparent consequence of the place.

Palanka is a small village, and we only stopped there to change horses. Whilst this was doing, we were told several dreadful stories of the dangers of the next stage, and particularly of the ferocity of a gang of robbers who infested a wood, through which we must necessarily pass. Though not much addicted to the belief of idle reports, it is at least so far prudent to pay attention to those, where personal safety is concerned, as to adopt measures of precaution. We therefore loaded our pistols, and distributed small arms to our servants; but we had no occasion for any efforts of heroism, and arrived at Futok, the place of our destination, without any untoward incident.

Close to this place is the castle of my friend count Hadik, who, not being there himself, had furnished me with letters to insure us a welcome reception. The curate of the village had been apprized, some days before, of our intended visit, and, in the absence of the count, did the honours of the house. He had prepared

beds in the best apartments, on which, after the lodgings we had lately been reduced to, and the restless nights we had endured, we were disposed to put an appropriate value. We quite enjoyed our present comforts, and, going early to rest, in the course of a long night, slept away the fatigues of our journey. Sancho never enjoyed his slumbers more completely, nor did I ever estimate at a higher rate the blessings of repose.

On rising in the morning, we found our good curate already waiting for us in the parlour, and, as soon as we had breakfasted, he politely attended on us, to shew us the curiosities of the place.

It happened to be fair time at Futok, and I was surprised to see so many people assembled from different parts, and so much merchandise collected in this remote and apparently obscure spot. Excepting the cattle, the articles were not of great value, consisting chiefly of peasants' clothing, pipes, coffee, and drugs. They, however, sold very high. The current

price of coffee was 3 s. 6 d. and refined sugar 1 s. 6 d. a pound, above double what they used to fetch before the war. This great advance, on what is here considered as necessaries of life, has contributed, more than any other circumstance, to render us unpopular on the continent among the lower classes of people. They regard us (as indeed we are) as the sole monopolizers of all the West Indian commodities; as entirely regulating the prices, and exacting profits which, on no principle of justice, can be warranted. This, though partly, is not entirely, the case. Before they reach the consumer, they pass through several hands, and every person who is concerned in trade must secure to himself an advantage on the goods he vends. The unheard-of expences of the present war have compelled every government in Europe, however reluctantly, to impose heavy duties on articles of general consumption. This, and the scarcity occasioned by the waste necessarily attending the support of immense armies in distant countries, are

the chief and radical cause of the alteration. The gain of the merchant is not more than proportioned to the increased expences of his business; and, whatever it may be, it should be recollected that it is divided into many shares. And, in fact, as far as West Indian produce is concerned, our government has acted with the greatest liberality towards the Continent, as those duties, which are paid in England, are remitted on exportation. There was a great shew of cattle, particularly horses and oxen, which were also very dear. The very worst kind of horses brought from four to six pounds; two year old colts, of a good breed, fifteen; and lean and small oxen, such as are sent from the Orkneys, fifteen pounds a pair. But no wonder, for every thing, that can be converted to the use of the army, is bought up with the greatest avidity. The advance on other articles has increased nearly in the same proportion. Wine, of a very bad quality, produces 6d. a quart, ordinary wheat 3s. a bushel, and beef 2d. a pound. These prices appear to

us very moderate; but they are not considered in that view here, and are the cause of very heavy complaints. But the greatest disproportion has taken place in the purchase of houses. They are built of mud, in a very coarse style, and thatched with reeds, and have generally adjoining a small plat of ground. This kind of tenement, about twenty years ago, used to fetch about 4l. or 5l. and is now eagerly purchased at 25l. or 30l. This, however, is to be, in great measure, attributed to the number of new settlers, who flock from different parts of Germany.

All the young horses, which are brought to the fairs in Hungary, are perfectly wild; but the Hungarians are excellent horsemen, and adopt a prompt method of taming them. A fellow, accustomed to the business, vaults on his bare back, and gallops him about till the spirit of the poor beast is completely subdued, and he drops down with fatigue, after which, such is the terrifying impression left, he seldom ventures to play any more pranks. This may

be an expeditious, but it is a cruel, method. It completely breaks the spirit of this noble and generous animal, and frequently renders him ever after almost unfit for use. These fairs, when they are fully attended, are very productive to the lord of the manor, who receives a certain per centage for every article that is sold. The most considerable one at Futok takes place in the month of November.

This town stands on the banks of the Danube on an immense plain, which is famous for the encampment of prince Eugene in 1717. The Rascians, who constitute the majority of the inhabitants, have a church which is considered as the most splendid in this part of Hungary, and is certainly calculated to make a favourable impression on the tasteless fancies of an ignorant populace. It is glittering with ornament; and the end, where the great altar stands, is entirely incrusted, from top to bottom, with saints and scriptural pictures dressed out in gold and the most gaudy and glaring colours. The houses,

as I have already observed, are very rudely built, and their number is by no means proportioned to the population of the place. This is frequently the case in many parts of Hungary, where ten or twelve families are joint possessors of the same tenement. The various members of this community are, however, widely dispersed. None but infant children, the superannuated, and the sick, are admitted as constant occupants. The remainder is scattered over the country, and is satisfied with an abode in the open air, near the spots where they work in the day time. This accounts for the few farm-houses that are seen at any distance from towns; a circumstance which always strikes a stranger, who is at a loss to conceive where the people reside who cultivate the lands. The different tenants meet, however, on particular holidays, which they pass in mirth and festivity.

The Rascians, in their dress, are distinguished from the Hungarians chiefly by the sandal, which is laced on the foot, and continued half way up the leg, a piece of woollen

cloth, which serves as a stocking, being wrapped under it. They all wear pantaloons, and a sheep-skin jacket which costs about four shillings sterling, but which they do not, on account of its moderate price, carelessly throw aside. It, in general, lasts six or seven years, and they take every opportunity of rubbing it over with grease to preserve it. The Rascians are excessively superstitious, and, in time of lent, live entirely on beans and roots. The Hungarians, who are less scrupulous, eat fish, but no flesh is, at this season, brought to market. The men, as we have seen, are well and warmly clothed, but the poor women are obliged to go barefooted, even when the ground is covered with snow. They marry at the age of fourteen or fifteen, but few can expect husbands who have not, by inuring themselves to hardships, given proofs of the strength of their constitutions, and of their competency to undertake the painful drudgery (I am sorry I can in this country give it no milder name) of domestic life.

This seigniory, which belongs to count Hadik, is very extensive, including eleven villages. It was granted by Maria Theresa to his father, the field-marshal, as a reward for services rendered to his country, which still mourns his loss. The mansion is substantially built, the land fertile, and nothing but industry and taste is wanting to make it a complete residence. It is situated about half a mile from the Danube, which flows in an ample stream, and the lofty mountains, on the opposite side, form a grand boundary to the view. Wolves and foxes are very numerous in the neighbourhood, and sometimes do considerable mischief. The peasants, at certain seasons, are obliged to hunt them, and each village is bound to deliver every year at least one wolf's head, six foxes, and two thousand sparrows. These birds are regarded, and I fancy very justly, as peculiarly destructive, and it is a calculation here, that one of them, in the course of a year, consumes two bushels of wheat. On that account, as the corn ripens, guards

are always stationed to keep watch, and drive them away. Eagles, and other birds of prey, are frequently seen on the mountains.

We dined with the curate, who had provided an excellent dinner for lent, and had invited five jolly friars to meet us, who were no enemies to good eating and drinking, and not a bit the thinner for the restrictive regulations of their order. Nothing, except fish, was set on table, but it was of different kinds, and served up in such various ways, that there was no room for complaint. A couple of hours after dinner we separated from this jovial party, and proceeded by a flat sandy road to Peterwardein, where we arrived a little after five.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIX.

Semlin,
April 9th, 1800.

PETERWARDEIN is the strongest place in this part of the emperor's dominions, nor are there many in Europe better provided with the means of defence. It is the chief town of the province of Sirmium, and stands on the banks of the Danube, which separates it from Neusatz. Its natural position, which is very advantageous, has been so assisted by the ingenuity of art, that it is considered impregnable. Against the attack of a Turkish army, which it is intended to resist, I make no doubt that it is; but the advancements of the present age, in the destructive science of war, have been, unhappily, from practice, very great; and

what overmatched the skill of our ancestors, has been found to yield to the experience of the present generation. Other modes of operation have also been adopted in this war, and systematically acted upon, by the French, equally disgraceful to those who conquer, and to those who yield. They have taken possession of many of the strongest fortresses in Europe, not by force of arms, but by force of gold; they have overcome, not by valour, but by seduction; and I am confident that the secret history of their cabinet, for the last eight years, would unfold the most atrocious acts of corruption, treachery, and deceit, that were ever exhibited to the scorn and execration of mankind.

Early in the morning, on the 5th, we waited on the commandant the baron de Geneyne, (who also enjoys the post of the government of the kingdom of Sclavonia) to whom I had particular letters of introduction. He received us with the greatest politeness, and immediately ordered an officer to attend us round the works,

Fortifications, to military men, are certainly highly interesting, as they embrace a principal branch of their profession. We Englishmen are not, however, much in the habit of contemplating these stupendous productions, and our knowlege of them, at least the knowlege of those who remain at home, is in general purely theoretical. To see them, we must visit the Continent, where they have been erected with an ingenuity almost commensurate with their importance. In England, we luckily require them not; and sorry should I be to see the arrival of that day, on which our liberties depended on the strength of walled towns. We have a more natural, and a more powerful, defence. We have ramparts that can attack as well as protect; that can conquer as well as save. We have, without, an invincible navy; within, legions as invincible, whose breasts are shielded by the stoutest of all armour, the love of their country. You will, I am sure, readily pardon this digression. It is, peculiarly in these times, when laurels are gathering

thick around us, a proud and animating theme.

I shall not attempt to convey to you an accurate description of the plan of this wonderful fortress, which has surpassed all expectation. It reposes on a lofty rock, and is divided into two stages, the upper and lower. No money has been spared to add to its security, and every improvement which art and ingenuity could devise, or skill and labour accomplish, has been superadded to its natural advantages. Towards the river the rock is perpendicular, and, on the opposite side, the works extend above a mile. The walk on the ramparts is very pleasant, and commands an extensive view over the country. The casements and barracks are spacious, and substantially and conveniently built; but the arsenal is not so large as that at Essek, and, at present, is very badly furnished with arms. The water, for the use of a part of the garrison, is pumped up every day to the upper fortress, from two stages of reservoirs, and with no small labour. We had been shewn all this, and

were on our return home, when I observed that not a word had been said about the mines, which I was most curious to see. I knew that they made difficulties about allowing strangers to inspect them; but I thought that my letters at least justified me in making an application. I therefore, as soon as I got back to the inn, dispatched a note to the governor, begging his permission, which was politely granted, and the next morning an officer waited on us to conduct us to them. This, I afterwards learnt, was a mark of great confidence and attention, as they are very scrupulous of admitting, even their own officers, to these parts of the works.

We descended into them with lanterns, and the entrance brought to mind my expedition to the grotto of Akteleg. I was perfectly surprised at their structure and extent. They consist of three stories, of which the deepest is thirty-six yards below the surface of the earth. The galleries, which in some parts are cut out of the solid rock, are all arched with brick, and

are between five and six feet high, and, on an average, about three broad. They branch out into numerous passages which lead to the casements, springing mines, and rooms of defence, with holes for the guns and hand-grenades, and exhibit such a complicated labyrinth that it would be totally impossible for any one, who had not been long and intimately acquainted with them, to find his way out. They extend above half a mile in various directions, and, besides the workmen, are capable of accommodating 1200 men. There is a well of good water, which was dug by order of the late emperor, and two small arsenals adjoin them, which are well stocked with weapons and implements necessary for their reparation and defence. About fourteen thousand men are considered adequate to the protection of this fortress: at present it is guarded by a few invalids.

The town is small but populous. It consists of several narrow streets, and one, on a much larger scale, which entirely in-

tersects them, and, being wide and regular, with a gate and a guard-house at each extremity, has a handsome appearance.

Immediately opposite Peterwardein, on the western bank of the river, stands Neusatz, a considerable town, containing 10,000 inhabitants, and distinguished for its industry and commercial spirit. People of all persuasions, whether Catholics, Protestants, Greeks, Jews, or Mahometans, enjoy the free exercise of their respective religions; and this universal tolerance has contributed, more than any other circumstance, to render the place what it is. The merchants and shopkeepers carry on a considerable traffic both with Hungary and Turkey, and the markets supply the inhabitants of Peterwardein with provisions. The intercourse between the two towns is perpetual, and boats are always in attendance to convey passengers to and fro, across the river. There is nothing to remark about the houses; but many of the shops are richly furnished with merchandize. In the middle of the town

are a handsome cross and pump of red marble; and, in one of the church-yards, pictures, which shut up in cases, are placed over the tombs, with lamps before them, that are kept continually burning. The Greek bishop has an annual income of 12,000 florins.

A great many soldiers and other malefactors are seen in chains, in most parts of the emperor's dominions, who are employed in mending the roads, cleansing the streets, and other public works. They are generally condemned to this degrading state of servitude, from one to ten years, according to the nature of their delinquency. Few offences are now punished with death; and imprisonment, corporal punishment, and hard labour, are the modes, which the government has thought proper to adopt, for the chastisement and prevention of crimes. Imprisonment, which in this country used to be so horrible, has, by the clemency of the late reigns, been considerably mitigated, both in degree and duration; and those, who were formerly in-

evitably sacrificed by the severity of confinement, are now rendered serviceable to the community against which they have offended. Although I approve of the penalty, I object to the method in which it is inflicted. Numerous tribes of fettered malefactors, daily exhibited to public view, prevent the impression they ought to create. The frequency of guilt is apt to be considered by vulgar minds as a palliation for its commission; and, when they are in the constant habit of observing hundreds, drawn from their own class, thus disposed of, they imperceptibly lose all concern for their fate, and even no longer attach to it that sense of degradation, which, in all public penalties, it ought to be the chief object of the legislature to excite.

The punishment of criminals is certainly one of the most important and interesting branches of legislation, and we are disposed to infer the character of a people from the mildness or severity of its penal code. The object of all laws, in awarding penalties, is to prevent the repetition of

guilt; and, indisputably, only the degree, that is requisite to produce that necessary end, ought to be inflicted. If more frequent experiments were made in this most important inquiry, in every country, many useful citizens might be saved to the state.

On the plains, which surround Peterwardein and Neusatz, many desperate and sanguinary battles have been fought. Over and over again they have been deluged with blood, and Turks and Christians have been equally the victims to mutual resentment. The decisive victory, gained in 1717, by the illustrious prince Eugene, terminated these fatal strifes; and, since that period, the house of Austria has held an undisputed sovereignty. The Turks have, however, left behind them a part of their natural ferocity, which has retarded the progress of civilization, and is plainly discernible in the manners of the people.

On the 7th, in the morning, we left Peterwardein, and took the road to Semlin, which, as far as Carlowitz, runs along the banks of the Danube. A little before we

arrived there, we passed a small chapel called Maria Schnee, which is celebrated for being the spot where the treaty of peace, between the Christians and Turks, was signed in 1669. Such was the jealousy of the ambassadors, from the respective courts, about precedence, that neither being disposed to yield, the important business of their meeting was very near being postponed, when the expedient of opening a door on each side, that they might enter at the same moment, was thought of, and adjusted the dispute. Had it not been for this contrivance, the negotiations might have been broken off, and the war protracted for several years. On such chances do human affairs depend. Behind this chapel, general count Breüner, the great-grandfather of the countessHadik, was beheaded, by order of the grand vizir, after the loss of the battle of Peterwardein.

Carlowitz is also remarkable for being the residence of the metropolitan, in the emperor's dominions, of the Greek church, who enjoys a revenue of between 30 and

40,000 florins. The cathedral is not, however, very grand, and, as for the palace, it rises very little above our idea of primeval simplicity. The town stands on a hill on the banks of the river, but it is meanly built, and has a shabby appearance. The country around is pleasant and productive, and one of the hills, called Vizir-beg, perpetuates the remembrance of the domination of the Turks.

Leaving Carlowitz, the road retires from the Danube, and becomes hilly and rough. The mountains, to the right, are planted with vines, and cultivated almost to the top. We stopped at Petska, a small dirty village, to change horses, and proceeded thence to Semlin, through a flat, dreary, unproductive country, without a tree, or scarcely a field of corn, to divert the eye from the insipid view of scanty pasturages.

Semlin is a small town, and the last on this frontier of the emperor's dominions. Although it has made so conspicuous a figure in the history of the country; has been the source of so much contention

and the scene of so much bloodshed, it is, at present, badly built, and almost without fortifications.

On our arrival we waited on the governor, colonel Scherz, to whom I delivered my letters, and was received with all imaginable politeness. He sent an officer with us to shew us the town, and to point out all the curiosities, which are not very numerous. From a hill, on which the fortress once stood, and whose ruins still remain, there is a fine view of the Danube, and the opposite town of Belgrade. We were also desired to remark the line of circumvallation which was thrown up by prince Eugene, when he was encamped in the neighbourhood. Two hundred invalids are at present the only garrison. The country around has a miserable appearance, being flat, sandy, and destitute of trees. The fuel, necessary for the town, is brought from Bosnia by the Turks, who descend the Save in large flat-bottomed boats, deeply laden. They sell it at the rate of a florin and a half the cubic fathom,

which, however moderate it may appear to us, when compared with the means of subsistence in this country, is a very considerable price. The inhabitants do not exceed 1200, and consist of Greeks, Armenians, Rascians, Jews, and Turks. The three former have each a church, and carry on the chief part of the trade, which is not, however, on a very extensive scale. Cotton and leather are the principal commodities that are brought from the Levant, for which they pay custom-house duties to the amount of 3 per cent. Articles of luxury, such as shawls, and ottah of roses, pay 60.

The principal building in the town is the lazaretto, where both travellers and merchandize, arriving from the Levant, are detained, to guard against the introduction of the plague. The quarantine at present only lasts for ten days; and, although there has been no instance of infection at Belgrade for the last four years, it is rigorously enforced. The intercourse between Hungary and Turkey is chiefly

during the winter months, from September to April.

In the evening we drank coffee with the governor, who is a polite, well-informed, hospitable man, and exceedingly courteous to strangers. His family consists of his wife and daughter, both very amiable, and the latter very handsome. Having in the course of conversation expressed a wish to visit Belgrade, he gave the necessary orders for our excursion, and, the following morning after breakfast, an officer waited on us to conduct us thither. When we got to the river side, we found a boat in readiness, in which we embarked, taking with us, besides the officer, an interpreter and a person from the lazaretto, whose business was to take care that we committed no act which might subject us to the penalty of quarantine.

As we approached Belgrade, we saw it in various points of view. It stands in an advantageous situation, at the confluence of the Danube and the Save, and has strong fortifications, which, when it was taken, in

the last war, by the emperor, were put in thorough repair. In that state it was restored to the grand seignor, who was, consequently, a considerable gainer by its temporary loss. Almost all the buildings on the shore were also erected by the Germans. The fortress and ramparts are kept in excellent order, and are well provided with artillery.

In consequence of the regulations of the lazaretto at Semlin, we were not allowed to enter the town, without subjecting ourselves to a ten days' confinement. We saw, however, a small part of it from the water as we approached the shore, in which we counted fifteen minarets; a proof that the prophet, even in this extremity of the empire, has not been neglected.

The moment we landed, some officers, belonging to the pacha, who were regaling themselves at a coffee-house on the water's side, came to us, and, after paying their compliments, presented us with pipes and coffee. As soon as they discovered I was

an Englishman, they wished very much to inform their master, who, they said, would have infinite satisfaction in seeing me, more especially as Great Britain and Turkey were now engaged in one common cause, and united by ties of the closest friendship. I could only answer, that I felt myself highly flattered, and that it would afford me equal satisfaction to pay him my respects, could I possibly escape the quarantine. Colonel Scherz had indeed politely offered to send us over on a visit to his excellency, with proper recommendations; but, as on these occasions it is customary to make considerable presents to the Turkish officers and domestics in waiting, we thought, in addition to the detention to which we should be liable, it would be paying rather too high a price for the sight of an old man with a long beard.

Mustapha, the present pacha, is past the prime of life, but has the reputation of being a shrewd politician. He was formerly a tradesman, and raised himself to his present eminent station, which he

has held for seven years, by his talents and activity. He is a pacha of three tails, and, in addition to Belgrade, is intrusted with the command of the province of Servia, which is an important and lucrative government. The critical situation of Belgrade at this moment requires a man of ability and resolution to defend it, as it has long been threatened by Paswan Oglou, a soldier of fortune, known throughout Europe for his obstinate rebellion against his legitimate sovereign; the contempt he openly professes for all authority; and the fertility of his resources both in attack and defence.

The fortune of extraordinary characters, and the circumstances which have contributed to their elevation, are always an interesting object of inquiry. The origin of success is frequently the effect of chance, and, in the history of those who from insignificance have risen to celebrity, we can generally perceive some fortuitous accident, which has suddenly brought them into public notice. The power and

consequence of this man originated in the following manner. When Belgrade, in the late war, was taken by the Imperialists, most of the inhabitants, dreading the severity of a foreign yoke, fled from the place. At the reestablishment of peace, it was restored to the Turkish government, which gave permission to very few to return, and had recourse to the most rigorous and vexatious measures, not only towards Belgrade, but throughout the province of Servia. This harsh treatment created numerous malcontents, whose stifled passions at last broke out into open rebellion. Oglou was on the spot, and knew how to turn their resentment to his own advantage. Irritating their feelings, and at the same time sympathising with their sorrows, he gained their confidence, and they appointed him their leader. His conduct justified their choice. He soon proved that he was endowed with superior qualifications, and that he possessed a genius peculiarly calculated for the splendour of command. His fame rapidly increased,

and every one, dissatisfied with the government, took refuge under the shelter of his invincible standard. He is now at the head of 30,000 well disciplined troops, and has repeatedly proved the incapacity of the Porte to reduce him to submission. He is not only fruitful in expedients, but skilled in tactics. About two years ago, the Porte, irritated beyond endurance, at his successful resistance, resolved to crush him at a blow, and sent against him a formidable army of 100,000 men, commanded by nine pachas. But superior as they were to him in number, their strength was not equivalent to his vigilant activity. The two armies were in sight of each other, and skirmishes had already taken place between the advanced posts, when he made a sudden feint, and pretended to fly. The pachas were completely deceived. They immediately regarded his extermination as accomplished, and, in the exultation of imaginary success, commenced a general pursuit. The wary Oglou kept his soldiers in a compact body,

and, watching his opportunity, suddenly turned upon the enemy. This unexpected movement created the greatest confusion and dismay, and, after struggling for a short time in vain, the pursuers fled. Oglou had now secured to himself the victory, and but a small remnant of that immense army survived the carnage of the day.

His policy in the cabinet is equal to his skill and intrepidity in the field, and not only increases the attachment of his friends, but gains him fresh adherents. He is a crafty politician, and adopts those artifices which are calculated to impose on the credulity, and quiet the consciences, of scrupulous subjects. He varnishes over his disaffection by the most plausible pretexts, and justifies his conduct by pretending that he does not disavow his allegiance to the grand seignor, and that his enmity is only directed against the neighbouring pachas, to punish their insolence, and repress their extortion. In corroboration of the purity of his motives, he affects, and practises, the strictest regard for

justice in all his public acts, which has inspired a thorough confidence in his protection, and diffused through the country his popularity and fame. So far from molesting any peaceable citizen, or permitting those ravages and oppressions which the licentiousness of an army usually commits, he provides a secure safe-guard for the transportation of merchandize, pays punctually in cash for all his supplies, and punishes, with the most inflexible severity, the excesses of his troops.

This is the man who is meditating an attack on Belgrade, and if he carry his design into execution, notwithstanding the strength of the place, he will probably succeed, for his talents and popularity furnish him with powerful advantages. The pachas are indeed justly hated. They rule every where with a rod of iron; and the extortions of the governor of Servia are nearly as boundless as his sway. It is wonderful how these people, who have generally risen from insignificance, should pay so little regard to the class from which

they sprang, or, at least, that they should not be induced, from the recollection of their own feelings previous to their elevation, to form a juster estimate of the rights of humanity. But the man who is mean to his superiors, exerts over others that tyranny which has been practised towards him. This is his definition of the law of retaliation. It is truly a horrid form of government which prevails throughout Turkey. It is a compound of cruelty, servility, and injustice. It is a system of extremes. The authority that is exercised, as well as the obedience that is submitted to, is unlimited. The person in power is every thing; those under him are nothing. All must bend to his will, and be sacrificed to his passions. He may revel in luxury and pleasure; the duty of those below is to suffer, but not complain. The life of a human being is no more valued than the life of a dog, and the happiness or misery of the people is not considered as worthy of occupying a statesman's mind.

About a year ago, during the administration of the present pacha, out of three hundred rebels whom he made prisoners, upwards of eighty were, by his orders, butchered in the streets. The bodies were removed the following morning, that their putrefaction might not infect the air, but their heads were left to be food for the dogs. Not long before this act of brutal barbarity, a circumstance happened still more strongly indicative of wanton cruelty. A gentleman went over from Semlin to pay him a visit, and (it shews the notions of the man) either by way of compliment or entertainment, he ordered a criminal to be brought into their presence, and, without assigning any reason or asking any question, had him instantly beheaded. When a robber makes his escape from the opposite side of the river, and is taken in his province, he never offers to deliver him up, but sends over to the governor of Semlin, to know whether it is his pleasure, that he should be hanged, be-

headed, or impaled. But why should I go on relating anecdotes of which the life of every pacha is full? Such occurrences are merely considered as things of course. In other respects, he has the reputation of being a civilized, well-informed, and even polished, man. He lives in very good fellowship with the governor of Semlin, and they now and then pay each other a visit; but these ceremonies are attended with considerable expence. The colonel told me, that the last time he received the pacha, his attendants, who, as you know, are by their prophet strictly forbidden the use of wine, drank upwards of three hundred bottles of sweet wines.

On our return from Belgrade we dined with colonel Scherz, and, in the afternoon, took a walk to the banks of the river, to hear a concert of Turkish music, which, in fine weather, is given every morning and evening for the amusement of the pacha. On our return we were very much annoyed by some drunken Turks, who were collected

on the beach, and it required the interference of some soldiers to repress their insolence.

The climate is excessively hot in summer, and such is the quickness of vegetation, that, a few days after the disappearance of the snow, the trees begin to blossom. Provisions, though their price since the war is greatly enhanced, are still cheap, and fish and wild fowl are in great abundance.

Whilst we were here, being very desirous of procuring some shawls and a few other articles of Turkish manufacture, we sent a man over to Belgrade to ransack the shops; but what he brought for our inspection were so ordinary that we made no purchases. It is indeed necessary, if you wish for any thing out of the common way, to send an order to Constantinople. The only curious article we could obtain was ottah of roses, which the Jews offered to us in great abundance: but it is a hazardous speculation

to buy much, as they have means of adulterating it, which it is a difficult matter to detect.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XL.

Temeswar,
April 17th, 1800.

On Thursday the 10th, after taking leave of the governor and his kind hospitable family, we had our carriage embarked on board a large boat, and set off for Panzova, which lies on the banks of the Danube, about fourteen miles below Semlin. At a later season of the year, when the ground is dry, the best way is to cross the river, and, landing on the opposite shore of the Banat, to go the post road, but so shortly after the melting of the snow, the soil is swampy, and the conveyance by water is more convenient and safe.

We had a fine view of Belgrade as we descended the river, and, as we advanced,

many rich and interesting landscapes appeared. The Turkish shore is bold and picturesque, but it wants wood, and is not at all embellished by cultivation. By twelve o'clock we reached Panzova, which is a neat little town, standing in a pleasant situation, about a mile from the Danube, with which a communication is opened by a canal. We had a letter to the commandant, general Terssich, who, being from home, we immediately ordered horses, and went on to Ui Palanka. The post road is only continued for the first stage, after which we were obliged to proceed with peasants' horses. The country is flat and badly cultivated, and we passed extensive tracts of deep sand. A few cattle, and here and there a patch of Indian wheat, were the only productions; and the villages, which have a ruinous appearance, are the abodes of poverty and filth.

The part of the country, which extends along the frontiers from the western extremity of Dalmatia to the Buccovine, is

denominated the Military District. This long tract encircles the southern and eastern boundary of Hungary, and is subjected to a complete military government. The king is the sole allodial proprietor of the land, which he parcels out in small divisions, and those who possess them hold them entirely by a tenure of personal service. All males, except the eldest son who is left to cultivate the farm, are born soldiers. From the age of fifteen, they are bound to perform military duty; and an exact register being kept, in which every name is entered, there is little chance of escape. They are provided, by the government, with arms and ammunition, and, in time of war, with clothing; but they receive no pay, except when they are marched to distant parts. Each village or department, according to its population, is obliged to furnish a given number of men, and, as they die or are killed, others must be substituted. On the death of a feudatory, his lands descend to his male children, among whom they are equally divided, on con-

dition of the stipulated service. Whenever this fails, the estate is forfeited. If a son be absent from the district, except on military employment, at the death of his father, he loses his share of the inheritance; and a widow, who is without children, and cannot marry, must procure a person to manage the fief, and perform the duty required. If she marry one belonging to the district, who is destitute of land, he takes possession of the fief in exclusion of her children, and, at his death, the male issue of both marriages inherit equal shares. Any one, in uninterrupted possession of a farm for twenty years, becomes proprietor of it; but he cannot dispose of it without the consent of the superior officer.

Such are the principal regulations of this singular institution, which bears a close affinity to the antient feudal system, with this distinctive feature, however, which has in great measure contributed to its stability, that the land is separated into small parcels, seldom more than sufficient for the support of the proprietors.

The accumulation of wealth and territory is cautiously guarded against, nor are any great feudatories, on any account, admitted. The soldiers are alone the object of these provisions. The officers receive pay like the regular troops.

The population of this extensive tract is estimated at 400,000 souls. It is divided into six large partitions, which are bound to maintain thirteen regiments, each consisting of 4000 men. But the effects of the present war have been cruelly felt, and the harshest measures have been resorted to. The population has been so completely drained by forced levies, that, in many of the villages, only superannuated people and young children are to be seen, and the lands are cultivated by women. The men have been taken from the country to supply the deficiency of the armies in Italy and on the Rhine; and the few, who have been spared, are obliged to devote one or two working days a week to the public service, and to assist, on all occasions, with horses and carts in the trans-

portation of every description of military stores. Many young men, to escape the severity of these unjust proceedings, have taken refuge in the mountains and woods, where they live on plunder, and have secured themselves in fastnesses from which it will be difficult to dislodge them.

In one of the villages before we reached Ui Palanka, we were much struck with the singular costume of the women. It was a mixture of simplicity and gaudiness, consisting of a short jacket and a parti-coloured apron of the most glaring colours, a good deal resembling a plaid, with long shreds from the knees by way of fringe. At the next village, being very much fatigued, we were desirous of passing the night, but we could procure no accommodations whatever. About nine o'clock we came to another small place, which we imagined must be Palanka, and ordered the postillions to drive to the inn. On entering, we found it a most deplorable hovel, composed of a couple of rooms crowded with the family who were scat-

tered over the floors, and breathing an air that was intolerable. When we asked the landlord, if he had no better apartment, and told him we could not think of remaining there, he was both surprised and offended at our delicacy, and gave us to understand that the accommodations at Ui Palanka were by no means comparable to those which his house afforded. As, however, it was but a mile farther, we thought the experiment was worth making, and we wished him good night. He withdrew quite out of humour at our having disturbed him to so little purpose, and shut the door in a muttering mood. Unfortunately, however, his assertion proved true. The inn at Ui Palanka was the residence of the most squalid poverty; and, the moment the door was opened, we were so disgusted with its appearance, that we asked no questions, but, by the advice of our postillions, drove to a baker's, where we easily got admittance. We were indeed badly enough off here, being obliged to take up our quarters in the same room with the

baker and his wife and a numerous troop of squalling brats.

The first thing we did in the morning was to wait on the lieutenant, who commands on this station, to shew him our passport; and, as we intended making an excursion by water, to beg him to procure us a boat. With this request he readily complied; and, purposing to return in a few days, we committed our carriage to his care. It is astonishing the degree of curiosity this carriage excited in these remote and barbarous villages. Such a vehicle had never been heard of, and, when it remained at any place a day, people used to flock from different parts, two or three miles round, to see it. Never I suppose was Leader's work so admired, and never certainly were such singular remarks made on the construction of a carriage.

The situation of this village is very pleasant, commanding an interesting view of the Danube, and of a Turkish castle, built on the brow of a mountain on the opposite shore The houses are miserable dwel-

lings, and the number of dogs that, in lent, getting little to eat, are quite ravenous, renders it dangerous to walk the streets by night.

A little after eight in the morning we commenced our expedition down the river, as far as Orsova, in a boat with four rowers, for which we were to pay twenty-five florins, on condition, however, of their engaging to bring us back if we chose to return by water.

We had not proceeded far, when the river became very narrow, and, from its confinement, flowed with great rapidity. In the middle of it stands a rough rock, which rises about twelve feet out of the water, and seems as if designed for the entrance into a grand amphitheatre, which opens immediately behind it. The hills on each side are of a considerable height, some thickly overgrown with wood; others quite bare, sloping almost perpendicularly to the water; others again intermixed with shrubs and rocks, rising and receding in beautiful perspective, and terminating the

inquiries of the eye. A little lower down, the rocks and crags become very rugged and steep, and are full of caverns which have been made by the eddies of the water, and sometimes serve as a retreat to the goatherds and their flocks. On the Turkish shore were the ruins of an old castle, and we passed several small villages on either side.

The northern banks, at stated distances, along the river, are furnished with military stations, which are little huts built of clay and straw, where a few ragged sentinels are placed, with muskets and bayonets, to watch what is passing on the opposite frontier, and to take care that no one lands from Turkey without being carried to a lazaretto to perform quarantine.

Just before we came to Diwisch the river expands considerably, and has the appearance of a spacious lake. It is nearly circular, and enclosed by lofty hills with villages at their foot, many of whose houses are buried under ground, except the roof, in which there is a little window to let

in light and air. This must be the natural taste of the inhabitants, for in these parts the window-tax is unknown. The banks, for a few miles, continue widening and contracting by turns, but are still bounded by the same range of mountains. At last we arrived at a most tempestuous spot, confined between rugged and lofty rocks, which, jutting out into a number of abrupt angles, occasion a violence and contrariety of currents that are much dreaded by the boatmen. These being passed, the river again enlarges itself, and assumes a placid appearance.

The mountains here are lofty and perpendicular, and some of them were covered with snow. As we continued to descend, the shores, for some distance, increased in boldness and height. A few miles lower down, the river again spreads into a spacious lake, encompassed by tremendous rocks, and its surface is violently agitated by numerous strong eddies, which seem to be contending for superiority. This pass is far more perilous than the first. It

is full of whirlpools, and the waves ran so high and in such opposite directions, that it required a great deal of skill, and a complete knowledge of the different tracks, to prevent the boat from being overset. As we approached the eastern outlet, the banks seemed to close, and the water is so much straitened by a point of land which stretches towards the opposite shore, that it flows with the greatest impetuosity, and makes a roaring which is heard at the distance of several miles. Beyond this promontory stands a Turkish village in a charming situation, and the banks again suddenly expand into an ample circle. Proceeding a few miles farther, we came to a range of rocks which form a regular crescent, undulated at top, and terminated on each side by an immense mass of granite several hundred feet high, with a summit of a conical shape. They exhibited a most romantic appearance, and the cascades which were formed by the melting of the snow, and were pouring down in torrents in every direction, augmented the wildness of

the scenery. As we continued to descend the river, the rocks increased in boldness and height, and many of them presented a smooth perpendicular surface which measures, from the summit to the base, five or six hundred feet. It was already night, but the weather being fine, and the moon shining in all her splendour, an additional solemnity was imparted to the intrinsic features of the views. Nothing indeed could be more striking, or more calculated to convey to the mind a just conception of the variety and grandeur of nature.

After passing these stupendous rocks, the shores became gradually tamer, and, in about another hour, we anchored at a village called Ogradina, inhabited by Walachians, where we determined to pass the night. We here met with a man who was owner of one of the Danube boats, and had just returned from Widdin, whither he had been to convey corn for the use of the town. This is the head quarters of Paswan Oglou, with whom he had had an interview, and he described him as a po-

lite obliging man, about six and thirty years of age, strong and athletic in his make, with red hair, and a countenance full of animation. He said he had been received by him with the greatest affability, had been punctually paid for his cargo, and invited to return.

There being a remarkable subterraneous place on the banks of the river, known by the name of the Veteran's Cavern, about a couple of miles above this village, which we had passed in the night, we were very desirous of seeing it, and, early in the morning, we hired two additional men to row our boat against the current, and took with us a woman (the only person in the village that could speak German) as our Cicerone. This little retrograde excursion also gave us an opportunity of contemplating, by day-light, the majestic rocks which bound this part of the river, and I think I never beheld any more calculated to impress the mind with the awful fascination of romantic scenery. Sometimes they exhibited a smooth surface

several hundred feet in height, falling perpendicularly into the water; sometimes we could distinguish nothing but rough crags, rugged chasms, and spiral peaks; in other parts were sloping lawns decorated with luxuriant trees and verdant shrubs. The variety was indeed endless, and the windings of the river were always representing objects in a different point of view. We saw several eagles soaring in the regions above, whose excursions seemed to be only bounded by the sky.

Among other objects, which attracted our notice, and almost excited our envy, was a Turkish mill, with a small cottage belonging to it, delightfully situated on this romantic shore. It almost seemed to be a tenement erected by fairy hands. Before it, was a beautiful lawn, inclining to the river, planted with shrubs. Behind it was a torrent of water which derived its source from an overhanging mountain, and, after turning the mill, precipitated itself over a rugged rock, by which it was divided into numberless streams, which, according to

their size, fell with diminished or increased impetuosity, and made the country re-echo their music. What would I have given, could I have transported it to that country where it might be enjoyed with security?

It was hard work ascending the river against the current, and an hour had nearly elapsed before we reached the object of our inquiries. This cavern is celebrated as a natural curiosity, but more so for the history attached to it, having been the theatre of many a bloody exploit. It has been alternately a place of refuge for soldiers and robbers, and derives its name from the successful retreat of part of an Austrian regiment from the fury of the Turks. This experiment was repeated during the last war, but not with equal success. A party of Imperialists, stationed in the mountains, was surprised by a sudden irruption of the enemy, when two batallions escaped to this cavern. They defended themselves, with the greatest obstinacy, for near two days, but were at

last obliged to surrender from want of provisions, and were all put to the sword. The only entrance into this cavern is about half way up the mountain. The path which leads to it is rugged and steep, and the entrance is very confined; but, advancing a few feet, it suddenly expands into a spacious and lofty vault of solid rock. Although it is no doubt a natural excavation, it has been, in some parts, assisted by human industry; and a well, which is sunk in one angle, bespeaks the purposes for which it has served.

The Turks, before the late war, were not allowed to tow their boats on the northern banks of the river; but this privilege is now granted to them in all places where their own shore will not admit of it.

On our return to Ogradina we only stopped to take our baggage on board, and then proceeded down the river to Orsova, where we arrived by mid-day. This part of the Danube, although the shores are less striking, offers many pleasing and interesting views.

Before the last peace, Alt or Old Orsova belonged to the Turks, and this is one of the trifling additions of territory the emperor acquired after a long and destructive war. It is a small, dirty, straggling, village, surrounded by mountains, and the station of a few ragged soldiers. We paid our respects to the captain of the guard to whom I had a letter, and, on our expressing a desire to see the Turkish Orsova, he instantly ordered a person to attend us there. This fortress, which is called New Orsova, occupies a small island in the Danube, and is nearly opposite the old town. It was formerly a strong and important post, but the fortifications have not been repaired since the war, when they were reduced almost to a heap of rubbish by the Austrian artillery. The celebrated Laudohn, who commanded in this district, having driven the Turks from the opposite shore, commenced his attack, and, after a siege of six weeks, obliged the garrison to surrender.

Not being quite so strict here as at Bel-

grade, we were permitted to enter the fortress, and the pacha, the moment he heard of our arrival, came down, with his attendants, to welcome us, when we were ushered into an unfurnished room, and presented with coffee and pipes. We remained with him half an hour, conversing chiefly on our travels, about which he was very inquisitive; and, on our taking leave, one of his attendants followed us to the boat with a box of Sultana raisins. The pacha is a well-looking man, past the prime of life, of an austere countenance, and has some dignity in his manners. He is of secondary rank, being dependent on the pacha of Belgrade, and of course at variance with the rebel Oglou, of whom he is so fearful, that he never ventures to quit the fortress. Such, indeed, is the insolence of the opposite party, and so great is their confidence in the power and protection of their chief, that a little village called Zechia, not above a mile distant, and containing thirty or forty inhabitants, has declared war against him. He was

lately blockaded by Oglou, and would have been compelled to submit, had he not been clandestinely supported by the emperor's subjects, who supplied him with provisions, till his adversary was drawn off by some object of greater magnitude. He has indeed but little power. The population of the place does not surpass three hundred, including the garrison, which forms one half. The fortifications, as I have already observed, are almost battered down, and the houses are in such a woful state of dilapidation, that the majority of the inhabitants is obliged to take up their quarters in the casemates. Their only mosch has been converted to that purpose from an old church built by the Germans.

On re-landing we took a walk to the Walachian boundary, which was about half a mile distant, and is separated from the emperor's dominions by a small brook. The last watch but one is placed on the summit of a lofty mountain, where a solitary sentinel is stationed, whose occupation

is to observe the movements of the infidels. On an opposite eminence, to the left of the brook, the Turks have erected a small battery, on which are planted four pieces of ordnance. To this spot we ascended, and were richly repaid for our trouble, as it commands an extensive prospect down the Danube. The range of mountains on either shore, whose bases are indented by the sinuosities of the current, and decked with rural hamlets, has a grand and pleasing effect. The river, too, in its course presents a delightful interchange of forms, sometimes gliding imperceptibly along, at other times flowing with an impetuosity that seems to threaten with destruction every thing it meets. This extreme fury is occasioned by a chain of rocks, called the Iron Gate, which extends from bank to bank, and renders the navigation of this part of the river extremely perilous. The eddies and whirlpools are numerous and violent, and occasion every year the loss of many boats. This is the most remarkable cataract in the Danube.

The high points of the rocks are, at all times, above the surface of the water, and, when the river is low, the whole ridge is visible. It would then be destruction to any vessel that attempted to pass, and, even when the water is high, such is the fury with which it rushes along, that it is necessary to have a pilot, who is thoroughly acquainted with the different channels and eddies, to carry a boat safely through. In former times these rocks served as the foundation of a bridge which was built across the river by the emperor Trajan.

On our return to Alt Orsova, we found a light calash with four horses, which the captain had, during our absence, got ready, waiting to convey us to Mehadia, for which place we immediately set off. We had a charming ride, the road running, almost the whole way, in a valley on the banks of a small river, and the high mountains which enclosed it were covered with wood and vines. When we were about two thirds of the way, we descended from the carriage to examine the remains of an

aqueduct which are near the road. It is a work of the Romans, and formerly conveyed water to the town. It is substantially built of large bricks which are strongly cemented together, and several of the arches are still entire. This neighbourhood is at present very much infested with robbers that have retreats in the mountains, and contrive to elude the vigilance of the dragoons who are constantly in pursuit of them. They commit so many depredations, and are so generally dreaded, that we seldom met any one who was not provided with a gun or some other weapon of defence.

Mehadia is a small town, standing in a romantic situation, and encompassed with lofty hills, on one of which are the ruins of an old castle. We remained there all night, and the next morning, having hired a carriage and horses of the custom-house officer, made an excursion to the baths, which are distant about five miles. The road to them lies on the banks of a river, through a rich and picturesque country,

where towering mountains, and bold and rugged rocks, are charmingly blended with the gentle features of cultivation. The baths lie in a deep dell, which is enclosed on every side by lofty mountains, and might easily, in a more civilized part of the world, be rendered a delightful retreat. They are seven in number, all warm, but of different degrees of temperature, and made use of for the cure of various complaints. The sources of hot water which supply them were discovered by the Romans, and by them applied to their present use. The neatest and most spacious of these baths is distinguished by the appellation of The Robber's Bath, which it acquired from a deep cavern in the rock, about an hundred feet above it, that was, for many years, the concealed retreat of a banditti who pillaged and laid waste the country. It consists of two baths which are under the same roof. They are rather decently fitted up, and, in one of them, is an antient mutilated stone figure, about two feet high, said to represent Her-

cules, who, by some strange tradition, is their reputed founder. If the accommodations were tolerable, this would probably become a place of fashionable resort, for the waters have the character of being very efficacious, and the situation is enchanting, but the houses have a wretched appearance, and are the abode of poverty and filth.

We returned to Mehadia to dinner, and, the owner of the calash refusing to carry us any farther, we were obliged to make an agreement with a waggoner to conduct us to Weisskirchen. Although the Romans were so long in possession of this part of the country, and the people, to this day, frequently dig up inscriptions, and broken vessels and statues, Mehadia has no curiosities of note to boast of. The women are rather pretty, and their costume has an oriental appearance. On their heads they wear a kind of turban, consisting of a scarlet cap fantastically bound round with a white sash, and their bodies are enveloped in a loose vest, with large sleeves, embroi-

dered with glaring colours, and a kind of plaid apron with a deep fringe, such as I have already described.

The mountainous surface of the country, and the crazy condition of our waggon, would not allow us to make a rapid progress, and we were obliged to pass the night in a Walachian village called Bosloven. There being no inn, we applied to the officer for shelter, which he civilly granted; but the accommodations were so disgusting, that we took our departure the moment it was light. These military districts are indeed a wretched country to travel through. Nothing can well surpass the poverty, misery, and dirt of the inhabitants; nor can even money procure any thing but slibowitz, bread made of Indian corn, and garlick, on which they live. We used frequently, particularly hereabouts, to fall in with a great many gipseys, who are a prolific people in Hungary, and travel about in considerable bands. Their numbers have been estimated as high

as 50,000 ; and Mr. Grellmann, in his Historical Inquiry concerning them, traces their origin from Hindostan. This position seems, however, to be quite hypothetical, and, dispersed as they are throughout Europe, it is surprising that there is nothing known, with any degree of accuracy, either traditional or historical, concerning their first appearance. They go wandering about, as in other countries, in small parties, and are an idle, dissipated, thieving race. Their principal occupations are, tinkering, palmestry, and fiddling, and their expertness at music is so great that the first professors in Europe could not I suppose play the national songs and dances with half such dexterity or effect. They live under ragged tents, and all their furniture consists of a few old blankets and kettles. Joseph II. made several attempts to attach them to particular spots, and render them industrious ; but, after a short time, they always ran away ; nor can the severity of punishment, or the allurements of reward,

detach them from their vagrant life. In some parts they are obliged to serve as soldiers; but many regiments, on account of the depravity of their character, refuse to receive them. They herd together like savages, following the unfettered bent of their inclinations and passions. The institution of marriage is almost unknown, and they are destitute both of a sense of religion and morality.

Beyond Bosloven, the road continues to be very mountainous; but the country is by no means so interesting as that we passed through the preceding day. After going for five hours, almost continually up and down hill, we came to a lofty mountain called Stanschillova, from whose summit we enjoyed a picturesque and extensive view. From the foot of this mountain, the road, for several miles, leads through a wood of oak and beech, which is refreshed by currents of water. Leaving this wood we descended a steep and rugged hill to the village of Saska, where, finding

a tolerable inn, we stopped to dine. The landlady, at first, treated us with evident marks of indifference and contempt; and we learnt, from one of our servants, that she suspected us to be a company of Italian players who had come to exhibit their buffoneries during the Easter holidays. This mistake afforded us some amusement, and indeed it was a very pardonable one, considering the shabby vehicle in which we arrived, and our dress, which was consistent enough with the character she had conceived. When, however, the old lady discovered her errour, fearful that we should be displeased, nothing could surpass the humility of her apologies, nor did our assurances, that we were rather diverted than offended, at all satisfy her. This village consists of one long narrow street, compressed between two lofty ridges of mountains, and a stream of water runs through it. It is chiefly known for the silver and copper mines which are near it, and which, though now exhausted, were formerly very productive.

After dinner we proceeded through a pleasant undulated country, laid out in pasturages and corn-lands, to Weisskirchen, which we reached towards the close of the evening.

Yours, &c.

HUNGARIAN REFERENCE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

LETTER XLI.

Vienna,
April 27th, 1800.

WEISSKIRCHEN is a considerable market town, pleasantly situated on a plain which is bounded by distant hills. It is well peopled, and neatly built, and the inhabitants, who are chiefly Walachians and Rascians, are employed in commerce and agriculture, and the breeding of oxen and sheep. Being a frontier town, it is under military jurisdiction, and is the station of a regiment of soldiers, who are lodged in good barracks. We were induced, from the goodness of the inn, to remain here all night. The following day was market day, and, being Easter week, all the country folks were dressed in their holiday clothes. Never, I suppose, did any court in Chris-

tendom present a greater variety, and their gestures were as diverting as their dress.

We had, as soon as we rose, dispatched one of our servants to Ui Palanka (which is about five miles off) for our carriage, and, on its arrival, it excited such general curiosity, that I dare say it will be a subject of occasional conversation, among the gaping peasantry, for many months to come.

There being no established post at Weisskirchen, we were obliged to have recourse once more to our assignation, and proceeded, through a fertile and cultivated country, to Werschecz, which is one of the most considerable market towns in the Banat. It contains about 12,000 inhabitants. The barracks for the cavalry are extensive and commodiously built, and, on the summit of a high hill, stand the ruins of a castle, from which, on a clear day, Belgrade may be distinctly seen. The Greek bishop, who resides here, is very much esteemed, and is about founding a school for the instruction of the Illyrian youth. The

land, near the town, produces good wine, and, at the distance of seven or eight miles, the cultivation of rice is successfully carried on. These two articles almost entirely engross the commerce of the place. The produce of the silk worm is also much attended to, but with no very beneficial consequences. The climate is, indeed, too severe in winter for the successful propagation of that delicate insect. Provisions are abundant and cheap, and the usual price of the Presburg bushel of corn is from 15 to 20 kreutzers.

We set off at four o'clock the next morning, and breakfasted at Moravicz. At Denta we only stopped to change horses. The country about it is quite flat, and produces rice, which is cultivated in the same manner as in the southern provinces of America, and the inhabitants are at present engaged in cutting a canal which will unite the Temes with the Danube. From this place we proceeded, through a bare and level country, to Temeswar, where

we arrived early in the afternoon. Of this town I have already given you an account. The weather, for several days past, had been very warm, and we found the air excessively close and sultry. Temeswar is, indeed, reckoned one of the most unhealthy parts of Hungary, and produces such fatal effects on strangers, that, out of eight hundred French prisoners, who were brought here about ten months ago, four hundred are already dead, and the hospital is full. The inn was so much better than usual, that we were induced to remain at it till the 18th. On ordering our dinner, when we asked the landlady, if we could have any fish, she seemed quite surprised at the question, and, after a little hesitation, exclaimed, with joy in her countenance, "Fish, sir! No, thank God! Lent is over, we have had enough of that lately."

Wishing to purchase a book, relating to Hungary, which had been strongly recommended to me, in the afternoon we took a ramble in quest of a bookseller's shop;

but, finding our endeavours fruitless, we returned to the inn, and begged one of the men, belonging to it, to shew us the way, when, to my utter astonishment, he assured us there was not such a thing in the town. This is, perhaps, the only instance of the kind, in Christian Europe, in a city containing many thousand inhabitants. One would imagine it was still in the hands of the Turks.

I had great pleasure in wandering about this place, and retracing the recollections of former years. There are, indeed, few occupations from which the mind derives purer delight than in renewing an acquaintance with objects, that have formerly excited our interest and curiosity. The association of ideas, which takes place on such an occasion, is altogether enchanting, and, whether we were happier then, or are happier now, our actual situation is invariably ameliorated by the comparison. Either past sufferings are obliterated by present enjoyment, or present affliction

soothed by the remembrance of past pleasures.

On leaving Temeswar, we proceeded to Arad, which is only three posts distant. The road was very good the whole way, and intersects a level country, which produces tobacco and various kinds of corn. The pasturages are also extensive, and nourish horses, oxen, and sheep. Whilst we were changing horses at Monostor, the post-master's wife was bitterly lamenting the havoc committed by the wolves, which, during the winter, she said, came in such force from the neighbouring woods, that she was apprehensive, some day or other, the whole village would be depopulated. Although she has, I fancy, no serious ground for encouraging such fatal fears, yet these animals, no doubt, as well as the wild boars, commit dreadful depredations, destroying the property, and frequently endangering the lives, of the most useful part of the community. In many places they might be easily extirpated; but as long, in this enslaved country, as the nobles

find a pleasing occupation in the pursuits of the chace, these inconveniences are not likely to be remedied.

Arad is, altogether, a considerable place. It is divided by the Marosch into two towns called the Old and the New, which stand in different counties; and for the last mile and a half before we arrived, we passed over one of the finest causeways I ever met with. The Old town is the largest division; but the New town is more regularly built, and contains the best houses. The inhabitants, who are Germans and Hungarians, carry on a lucrative traffic in wood and planks, which are brought by water from Transylvania, and the finest tobacco in Hungary is grown in the neighbourhood. The pasturages are also very extensive and rich, and people flock from all quarters to attend the Arad fairs, which, for cattle, after those of Ketschkemet, are the most considerable in the kingdom. But what chiefly interests the curiosity of a stranger is the fortress, which stands on a peninsula formed by the sinuosities of the

river. Immediately on my arrival, I waited on the governor, baron Vogué, who politely attended me round the works, which are very strong, and kept in excellent repair. It was a favourite design of the emperor Joseph II. to create a new town within its walls, and, to induce inhabitants to settle there, if they build according to the proposed plan, they are provided with the materials gratis; become entitled, without purchase, to the privileges of citizenship; and are exempt from taxes for ten years. But all these allurements have hitherto failed. People are cautious of placing themselves under the immediate eye of a military government; and the only buildings that have hitherto been erected within the ramparts, are, the governor's house, the guard-house, a convent and church belonging to a society of Franciscans, and a few shops. These are all regularly, and rather elegantly, constructed, and if the plan be ever completed, it will produce a fine effect.

The heat here was excessive, but it did

not deter us from prosecuting our journey the following day. I had, unfortunately, received letters at Temeswar, which obliged me to curtail my tour, and return to Vienna. It was otherwise my intention to have still considerably extended it, and to have left scarcely any interesting place in the country unseen.

As, however, a few days were of no material consequence, we determined to visit the Imperial stud at Mezzo-Hegyes, which is one of the completest establishments of the kind in Europe. It is only two posts from Arad, and was not above ten or twelve miles out of our way. The road to it lies across a level country, consisting entirely of pasturages which are covered with horses and oxen. This, indeed, is a district of the immense plain of Ketschkemet which I have already noticed, and, being one of the parts of Hungary most favourable to the breed of cattle, has been, on that account, selected as the spot for this grand national inſtitution. It was founded by Joseph II. (whose mind was

always intent on some object of general advantage) for the propagation and improvement of this useful animal; and of such importance has it been deemed by the government, that it has been an object of considerable concern ever since.

The native horse of Hungary, though not deficient in spirit, from its diminutive size, is incapable of the exertions which are so familiar to the more vigorous constitution of those of many other parts of Europe. The intention, therefore, was, by introducing and crossing other breeds, to remedy their defect of form, and to blend their native animation and activity with muscular solidity and strength. This plan, being set on foot by those who had the best information on the subject, and the most ample means of carrying their views into execution, was likely to diffuse its good effects through the country, and, through the medium of practical inquiry, to remove those prejudices which had hitherto impeded improvement.

I had particular letters of recommenda-

tion to baron Schikonitz, who has the entire superintendence of the establishment, and to whose exertions and talents its present prosperity is chiefly to be attributed. He received us with the greatest politeness, and was kind enough to attend us every where, and explain every thing to us, himself.

There is something so gratifying in viewing those successful efforts which contribute to the use and convenience of life, that I really dont know when I have felt myself more interested, or have been better amuſed.

The number of horses amounted altogether to one thousand and twenty, of which nine hundred were brood mares; and the ground allotted to their nourishment is twenty English square miles. Part of this land is employed in the growth of oats, hay, and a few other general foods. The rest is laid out in pasturages. The houses, stables, barns, and offices, are erected on the most convenient spots, and are constructed both with judgment and taste. There is one long stable, consisting

of seventy wide stalls, which, at this season of the year, is allotted to the most valuable stallions; and the mares, which are reserved for them, to the number of four hundred, graze in enclosures, and in winter are taken up. The remaining five hundred horses are perfectly wild, and range at large. The stallions belonging to these, are in the proportion of one to nine or ten mares, and they have dreadful contentions with each other for favour and superiority. We had an opportunity of witnessing one of their battles. A herd of about one hundred mares was collected together, among which were only three stallions. They were already covered with wounds received in former combats, which however, did not prevent them from immediately commencing an engagement. One of them was soon completely beaten off the course, and, quite conscious of his insufficiency, slunk away unattended by a single companion. The remaining two then began an attack, and never I suppose, in times of chivalry, was a fiercer contest

carried on, in the presence of the fair, by two enraged knights. The mares, however, had more compassion than the ladies of those days; and, as if fearful of the consequences, after many dreadful wounds had been, by each party, given and received, by general consent they interfered, and divided themselves nearly between them. I observed that every time the mares were driven promiscuously together, as soon as they were left to themselves, all those of the same colour separated from the others, and assembled in parties.

The manner in which these wild horses are caught, is very curious. A great many of them are first hunted into an enclosed place of a circular form, and, when you have fixed on any horse you wish to have brought out, a man approaches with a long hair rope that has a slip knot at one end. They are then driven round pell-mell, the man with the rope running after them, and narrowly watching the horse that is wanted. The moment he sees an opportunity, he flings the rope, which is done with such expertness, that it generally se-

cures him by the neck. He is immediately pulled out by main force, and five or six other grooms, who are always in attendance, running up, in one moment, he is so fastened and pinioned on every side, that all resistance is completely vain. An exact list and pedigree is kept of every horse, and the colts are all marked at three years old.

The great object of the establishment being the improvement of the breed, both stallions and mares are procured from Transylvania, Turkey, different parts of Germany, and even from Spain and England. A certain number of their best stallions is sent every year to different parts of the emperor's dominions, and, as an encouragement to the peasants to bring their mares, a small pecuniary recompense is bestowed.

This establishment, in the course of the present war, has supplied the huzzars and light dragoons with upwards of ten thousand horses, for which the emperor allows one hundred florins each. The expences

are also very great. The annual consumption of oats alone is estimated at 100,000 florins, and three hundred and fifty men (whose number in the spring is augmented to five hundred) are employed all the year round.

Besides the superintendence of this institution, the baron acts as one of the commissaries for victualling the army. Twenty-five thousand florins are appropriated every month to this specific purpose, and, in the course of last year, he furnished the emperor's troops with 120,000 oxen, a great proportion of which were fed on these plains.

This part of the country is infested with robbers, who, in spite of the wildness of the horses and the vigilance of their keepers, often contrive to carry them off. We were advised to commit our carriage, during the night, to the care of a couple of sentinels, who told us that several suspected persons had been lurking about, watching for an opportunity to steal it.

On the 20th, after breakfast, we took

leave of the colonel, who insisted on our going to Oroschaza, the first stage, with the emperor's horses. From this place, there being no regular post, we proceeded to Ketschkemet with peasants' horses, and, for the first time during our journey, travelled all night. This determination gave rise to the following singular occurrence. Whilst at Mezzo-Hegyes, in the course of conversation, I told the baron, that, having travelled so much, I had certainly, in one respect, been very fortunate, never having been overturned. After expressing his surprise, he immediately added, "Well, you will not, I think, be able to boast of that good luck much longer, for if you travel all night, and persist in taking the road you at present intend, you certainly will meet with an accident." We thought no more of this till about the middle of the last stage to Ketschkemet, when, whilst we were going at a furious rate, one of the wheels slipped over a steep bank, and the prophecy was fulfilled. We came down with a violent shock, but,

fortunately, escaped all mischief. We were out at the door immediately, but the carriage was so completely overset, that we had great difficulty in getting it upright, and made several fruitless efforts before we succeeded. This seemed to divert our drivers, who, we now discovered, were very much in liquor. We were no sooner seated, than they again set off full gallop, and would most certainly, in a few minutes, have repeated their frolic. I now thought it high time to lower the spirits, at least of the fellow on the box, and, having a stout stick at my side, I let down the front window, and laid it, pretty severely, across his shoulders. I think I scarcely ever witnessed any thing equal to the astonishment expressed in his countenance, when he turned round his head, and saw me. It, however, had this good effect, that it brought him to his sober senses, and we reached Ketschkemet in safety. The road, the whole way, intersected immense plains, stretching out as far as we could see, and covered with horses, oxen, and sheep. At

four o'clock the following afternoon we reached Buda.

I had been very much pressed, and even solicited, by many of my friends, to stop with them at least another fortnight, that I might be present at a grand festival that was to take place early in May, in honour of the nuptials of the palatine and his princess; but all my inclinations were superseded by the duties of friendship, and, the next morning, we set off, by the shortest road, for this capital.

Yours, &c.,

LETTER XLII.

Vienna,
May 1st, 1800.

In my last letter I concluded the account of my travels; and if, from various unavoidable interruptions and disappointments, I have, in many respects, been prevented from fulfilling the extent of my views, I must still hope, that you have not found it destitute either of entertainment or information. Before I entirely dismiss the subject of Hungary, it is my intention to furnish you with a few general remarks, both on the country and its inhabitants. With these I shall conclude.

Hungary is certainly one of the most fertile divisions of Europe. Indeed I know of none which yields, in such abundance, so great a variety of valuable productions.

For its wine and corn, its cattle and fruits, its metals and salt, those most estimable of all commodities, it is peculiarly distinguished. Its climate is excellent, and its soil rich. It is intersected by some of the largest rivers in Europe; and inhabited by a brave and hardy race of men. But all these natural advantages are prevented from producing a due effect, by the palpable imperfections of its political institutions; and although these have, within the last fifty years, been materially corrected and improved, they still occasion a powerful counteraction to the vigour and welfare of the nation.

If any two maxims in politics be incontrovertible, they are these: That no country can be happy which is not well governed: and that no government can be good which is not just; that is to say, which does not extend an equal and impartial protection to every member of the community. Without entering into the abstract of political reasoning, let us examine, by setting forth a few leading facts,

how far the legislators of Hungary, in forming their code of laws, have been guided by these principles.

The government of the country is divided between the king and the nobles. The burghers and peasants are excluded from all participation.

The principal prerogatives of the king are, the power of making peace and war; of creating nobility; pardoning criminals; convoking the diets; and putting his negative to their legislative acts. These are no more than the common rights of sovereign princes; but the aristocracy is armed with privileges which are not only formidable to these rights, but which, in another direction, strike at the very existence of political freedom.

The nobles constitute, by hereditary title, the representative assembly of the country, through which all laws must pass, and by which all taxes must be levied. This assembly (which should be convened, at least, once every three years, and sit two months each time) is, therefore, purely aristocratical. It is true, it is composed of a

higher and a secondary class of clergy and nobility; yet they make but one political body, sitting, deliberating, and voting, together. They have no connexion, nor do they, in any shape, assimilate, with the mass of population. Their views and interests are totally distinct; and the people, not being deemed worthy of admission to any concern in the government, the authority of the one depends on the subjection of the other.

Now, if we look into the history of public bodies of men, in every country, we shall find, that the leading disposition is, not only to watch over their own conservation, but, even, as far as they have the ability, to strengthen themselves at the expence of the other parts of the community. Hence the necessity of establishing a counterpoise which obstructs the vitious tendency of power, and which is of such a nature, that, without destroying its energy, it corrects its abuses.

The neglect of this essential precaution, is a radical defect in the constitution of

this country, and the source in which almost all the evils, which disturb and afflict it, originate. The people, having no elective franchise, and possessing no control over the members of what is called the national representation, can have no means, either of asserting their claims, or redressing their grievances. Their interests are consequently completely disregarded, and must give way to the opposing views of those who govern. They may contemplate the injustice of command; but they must bear the mortification of submission.

The chief objects of the diet are, to weaken the prerogative of the king, and to perpetuate the humility of the people. The contest with the former has been frequently dangerous: the triumph over the latter has been generally successful. The nobles, in their collective capacity, have, as we have seen, very important rights. They deliberate upon laws, and levy taxes. Their legislative acts, before they can be legally enforced, must be ratified by the king; but the privilege of taxation resides solely in them: even a free donation is unlawful, unless

publicly voted *. This right, properly modified, is one of the best securities against the encroachments of arbitrary sway; but, regulated as it is in Hungary, it becomes a galling instrument of oppression. The only possible mode of preventing a partial and corrupt exercise of so important a branch of administration, is to render those, who levy the taxes, subject to their operation. Their indiscretions then carry with them their own correction; and, unable to escape punishment, they will be cautious of committing errours. When those who have the management of the national purse, must assist in making

* They have also the privilege of electing the palatine out of four candidates recommended by the king. This is their first act after the accession of a new sovereign. The office is as antient as the monarchy, and in rank is next to the throne. It generally lasts for life. The palatine governs in the absence of the king; is generalissimo of the kingdom; supreme judge of Sclavonia and Dalmatia; and judge and count of the Cumanians and Jazyges. His salary is only 20,000 florins; but his power and patronage are very great. The ban of Croatia is the next in precedence.

good the deficiencies, and even in replenishing it when empty, at least a powerful corrective is provided against criminal prodigality. But, unfortunately, in Hungary, this salutary check is unknown, and those, in whom the prerogative vests of raising money for the public service, are excused from furnishing any part of the supplies. They exempt themselves, and throw the whole burden of the state on the subordinate classes. The nobles, who are the proprietors of nearly the whole wealth of the country, contribute nothing to its support; whilst the burghers and peasants, who are scarcely removed from without the verge of slavish vassalage; who have very undefined rights; and who, by their condition, are excluded from every post of honour, emolument, or trust, and are even incapacitated from possessing any real property, are obliged to defray all the ordinary expences of the government. The operation of this principle alone, must inevitably oppose an insurmountable obstacle to the progress of improvement; and, without

inquiring any farther, furnishes a sufficiently obvious reason for the unpolished and impoverished state of the country. To render men active and industrious, you must secure to them the rewards of their labour. Before they can be stimulated to the acquirement of property, they must be protected in its enjoyment. But when they feel, that they are degraded from the situation they ought to fill; that they are insulted and oppressed by their superiors; that they are shut out from all prospect of advancement; and that the fruits of their industry are reaped by a cruel and avaricious master; what inducement is left for exertion? Is there not, on the contrary, every ground for discontent, as far as their own interests are concerned; and every motive for indifference towards the interests of those who employ them. What compulsion enforces, they must, however reluctantly, perform: beyond that they never stir.

The Hungarian nobles are, notwithstanding, very proud and tenacious of these

destructive privileges, and are continually boasting of a freedom which Britons would be ashamed to possess*.

Gradations of rank must undoubtedly exist in all large communities. They necessarily arise out of the condition of man, and the very constitution of nature. But this inequality of situation ought to be tempered by an equitable division of personal rights. To make men just, you must compel them to be so; for, acted upon, and misled, as they are by their passions, what is not protected, is exposed to continual oppression. Every thing ought, therefore, to be relieved from obscurity or doubt; and, above all, should we be careful, where the rights of any particular class may be affected, to put no confidence in the moderation or discretion of mankind.

In addition to the privileges which appertain to the nobles in their senatorial ca-

* They formerly had the privilege of taking up arms against their sovereign should he attempt to infringe their rights; but this concession furnished so many plausible pretexts for rebellion, that, since the time of Joseph I., it has been expunged from the coronation oath.

pacity, they are distinguished, as individuals, by several others of the highest importance. Their persons cannot be arrested, except for the crimes of high treason, murder, robbery, and a few others, till they have been legally tried, and convicted; they alone are eligible to posts of honour and of public trust; they are the exclusive proprietors of the soil, except that which lies within the boundaries of the free towns; they have, through the whole extent of the kingdom, the right of way; and they are exempt from all ordinary imposts.

In consideration of these immunities, when their country is invaded, they are bound, at the requisition of their legitimate sovereign, to take the field, accompanied, according to the extent of their estates, by a certain number of combatants, who, within the boundaries of Hungary, are maintained at their expence. During the Turkish wars, this was a severe and expensive duty; but, since the expulsion of the Ottomans, and the mode, now universally adopted, of maintaining standing armies,

it has been attended with scarcely any inconvenience.

The burghers, being under the particular protection of the government, although they must contribute their share of the taxes, and have many other serious causes of complaint, are not exposed to the oppression of the nobles; but the poor peasants, who are bred on their estates, and pass their lives in their service, are objects of just commiseration.

The condition of this most useful and important class of society, has been considerably ameliorated since the year 1764, when the empress Maria Theresa, as queen of Hungary, passed that celebrated code, known by the name of the Urbarium. By this beneficial ordinance, many doubtful points were explained; many prescriptive usages were abolished; and the reciprocal rights and duties of master and peasant were, in many respects, clearly defined. In 1785 the humanity of Joseph interposed farther in their behalf, and relieved them from that most degrading and humiliating badge

of slavery, confinement to the soil. Yet, although they are materially better off than formerly; although they are now elevated, in the political scale, far above their brethren in Poland and Russia; and although a part, and a dangerous part, of the power, which resided in the hands of the master, has been transferred to other tribunals, to which they may appeal; their grievances are still very great, and they are very distantly removed from the enviable possession of freedom.

The peasants are divided into different classes, according to the quantity of land they occupy on their master's estate. A peasant of the first class, is the occupier of what is called an entire farm, which consists of twenty-four acres, besides an additional acre that is allowed for his house, garden, and barns. The general mode of paying rent for this land is by personal labour, and by giving up to the landlord a certain portion of the produce. He is bound, for example, to work fifty-two days in the year, with a cart and two horses, from sunrise

to sunset; in addition to which, he must deliver to his master a ninth part of the fruits of the earth, and of his live stock *. From this tax his garden is exempt. There are several other obligations, due from the peasant to his lord, both of a personal and a pecuniary nature; but, being of less consequence, I shall not enumerate them, especially as the relation they bear to each other, in this respect, is already sufficiently explained. The peasant may purchase the natural productions of the country, and sell or exchange his own, as he chuses; but if his master be disposed to give the same price as a stranger, on paying ready money, he is entitled to a preference.

In order to enforce obedience to these harsh regulations, it is necessary that the territorial lord should be invested with

* The ninths are sometimes compounded for in money, and the peasant is entitled to wood for fuel and for building his house, and has the right of selling wine from Michaelmas to St. George's day. If he die without heirs, his property devolves to the landlord.

considerable power; and, as he is obliged to delegate a great portion of it to those who have the immediate management of his estate, it is very easy to conceive that it is generally abused. In many instances, the master has still the right of inflicting corporal punishment and imprisonment; and, when complaints are preferred, or disputes arise, he sits as chief judge and expounder of the law. The peasant, it is true, if he feel himself aggrieved, can appeal from his decision to the county court; but we all know the disadvantages under which a poor man labours, who carries on a suit against the rich. Even the privilege of quitting is encumbered with serious impediments; for, in addition to the natural attachment which he cherishes for the place of his birth; his aversion from trade and mechanics; and the difficulty of finding employment elsewhere; he must have a certificate from his master of good behaviour. The annual contribution in Hungary, including the Banat and Croatia, amounts to about 4,400,000 florins, of which the pea-

sants pay upwards of 4,000,000. The residue is levied on the burghers.

The population of Hungary, comprehending the Banat, Sclavonia, and Croatia, is estimated at 8,000,000 of souls. No country in Europe is inhabited by so many distinct races of people, or distinguished by such a diversity of manners, customs, religions, and tongues. Hungarians*, Sclavonians †, Germans ‡, Walachians, Rusniacks, Illy-

* The Hungarians are only estimated at one fourth of the population. The Magyars (the name by which, in their own language, they are still known) were their progenitors, and they came, with the other swarms of barbarians, from Scythia and Tartary, in the ninth century. Their language, which contains many Turkish words and idioms, is sonorous and figurative. The morning, for example, is styled, "the flower of the day;" the evening, "the repose of the sun."

† The Sclavonians are the original inhabitants of the country, and are composed of several races. The Sclavonians, Croats, Illyrians, Rascians, Bohemians, and Russians, all understand each other, speaking different dialects of the same language.

‡ The Germans have been transplanted at different periods from different parts of the empire, and make about one ninth of the population.

rians, Armenians, Greeks, Jews, and Egyptians; these are the present possessors of this fruitful and celebrated kingdom. But, though inhabitants of the same country, and governed nearly by the same laws, they seldom intermix; and having, in general, preserved their own peculiar habits and institutions in their original purity, they follow those pursuits which are most congenial to their characters. The Hungarians and Walachians employ themselves chiefly in agriculture and the breeding of cattle; the Sclavonians are engaged as manufacturers and labourers; the Germans are mechanics and innkeepers; the Rascians, Armenians, and Greeks, carry on the trade and commerce of the country; the Jews act as brokers and money lenders; and the Egyptians are vagabonds and thieves.

It was a favourite plan of the emperor Joseph II. to blend all the subjects of his hereditary dominions into one indiscriminate mass, and to govern them by an uniform system of laws; a grand but hazardous experiment, and, if practicable,

only to be accomplished by the most persevering patience, and the gradual and almost imperceptible operation of mild and persuasive measures. To Hungary, as the most extensive and valuable part of his hereditary possessions, he principally directed his views. But, unfortunately, both for his country and himself, he began where he should have ended; and the moment he had digested his scheme in his own mind, he was determined to carry it into execution, imagining that he had sufficient power and influence to insure its immediate adoption. He, therefore, at once, overturned most of the antient forms and institutions of the kingdom, and commenced a direct attack on the most rooted prejudices of the people. These violent and arbitrary proceedings threw the whole kingdom into a ferment, which was several times on the point of breaking out into open rebellion; and, after nine years of mortification and fruitless labour and toil, perceiving the folly and impracticability of the pursuit, he was induced to renounce it, and, by one

of the last acts of his life, he formally abandoned all his meditated innovations, and endeavoured to bring about a reconciliation with his subjects by cancelling all that he had done.

The natural antipathy of the Hungarians towards the Austrians, has certainly not been diminished by the attempt and failure of this scheme. It was evident that the views of Joseph were, by subduing their national spirit, to reduce them to the state of a mere provincial dependency; and that they were relinquished, not from conviction of errour, but hopelessness of success *. A

* It has, indeed, been the constant policy of the court of Vienna to govern Hungary with peculiar severity, and to discourage every exertion that might make it acquainted with the extent of its resources. In obedience to this mean and unjust spirit of jealousy, the establishment of manufactures has been impeded in a manner that amounts almost to prohibition. Hungary is regarded by Austria in the double view of a rich country which furnishes it with raw materials, and a populous country which takes back those materials when manufactured. So that what Hungary loses, the other parts of the emperor's dominions gain. It has also, besides the price of

few days after this mortifying revocation, Joseph expired, and one of the first acts of Leopold's reign was, after an interval of six and twenty years, to re-assemble the states, in whose presence, he not only confirmed the renunciation of his predecessor, but granted fresh concessions.

The religions, which prevail in Hungary, are as diversified as the people ; and if any thing in the government of this country is worthy of being an object of commendation, it is the universal toleration which prevails in religious affairs. There cannot, indeed, be said to be any established mode of worship, for although the Roman Catholics are the most numerous, and the richest benefices are in the hands of the clergy who follow

labour, to pay the expences of transportation, the custom-house duties, the territorial tolls, &c. which, on raw materials, are heavily felt. The exports of Hungary amount to about 16,000,000 of florins, its imports to about 11,000,000, leaving a balance of 5,000,000 in its favour. The former consist almost entirely of raw materials, the latter of manufactured goods; and of the 16,000,000 exports, 14,000,000 are taken by the emperor's subjects.

that persuasion, yet each sect is only bound to support their own ministers; and any person, who is qualified in other respects, is not, on account of peculiar forms of adoration or tenets of faith, rendered incapable of filling the most important and confidential offices in the state.

We have thus seen that the principal causes which have retarded the progress of Hungary towards civilization, and obstructed the operation of its natural advantages, are the radical defects of its constitution. The relation, which exists between the noble and the peasant, is not only oppressive to the latter, but injurious to both, obliging the landlord, from the very nature of the contract, to keep more land in his hands than he can manage, and the peasant to work where he derives no advantage from the improvement. No cordiality can therefore subsist between them. The reciprocal jealousy and enmity between the aristocracy and the crown are also perpetual. With such discordant interests and views, there can be

no public spirit, no sincere co-operation of parties for the general good. Their effects are felt in every direction, and the resources and industry of the country languish under the accumulated weight of distracted councils, vexatious laws, and universal discontent.

Every government, indeed, must be precarious and bad in which the great majority of the people is not interested in its preservation; and, such is the close affinity between liberty and civilization, that the freest nation will always be found to be the most enlightened. With a stature erect toward heaven; with a soul capable of comprehending the works, and penetrating into the mysteries, of nature; it was surely never intended that man should prostrate himself before man. Both reason and religion teach him to thank and to adore his Creator; to pay a cheerful obedience to just and necessary laws; to respect his superiors as long as their conduct deserves respect; to live on terms of friendship with his equals; and to behave, with kindness,

towards those below him. But that base and cringing homage, which active courage and insolent pride have exacted from passive stupidity and abject submission, every honourable and honest feeling of our nature disclaims.

Although I abhor the excesses of licentiousness; although I deprecate the horrours of revolution; although I acknowledge the perilous mischief of ill-digested and precipitate changes, especially when they interfere with the habits, or resist the prejudices, of mankind; yet, there are methods of reforming with safety; and happy should I be to observe the introduction, by all those invested with authority, of some mild and generous system, which should gradually tend to improve and exalt the condition of man. If such a system were faithfully adopted, and honestly persevered in, the most glorious work, which can command the affections, or engage the efforts, of the human mind, would be gradually effecting its accomplishment; and some future generation might have the satisfaction of

beholding the chains of tyranny, and the errours of superstition, vanish from the face of the earth. Those, who feel for the sufferings, and take an interest in the welfare, of human nature, must ardently wish for so desirable a change; but, unfortunately, our wishes are at perpetual variance with our experience, and, when we contemplate the infirmities, and review the imperfections, by which all our actions are, in some degree, influenced or determined, we must despair of its attainment.

Hungary, however, may possibly, in the hidden course of future events, recover its freedom, and take its proper rank among the civilized states of Europe. I wish it may, for I feel a peculiar interest in its fate. I like the people; I admire the country; I lament its misfortunes; I pray for its prosperity.

Yours, &c.

THE END.

T. Bensley, Printer, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, London.

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